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MEMOIRS
Of
Her Majesty
Sophia Charlotte,
Queen of Great Britain.

By W. M. Craig, Esq.r

Liverpool.
Printed and Published by Henry Fisher
Printer in Ordinary to His Majesty.
1818.

MEMOIR

OF

HER MAJESTY

SOPHIA CHARLOTTE,

OF MECKLENBURG STRELITZ,

Queen of Great Britain,

&c. &c. &c.

SHEWING,

From faithful Representations and authentic Documents,

THAT EXCELLENT LADY TO HAVE BEEN ALWAYS AS EMINENT FOR HER VIRTUES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AS ILLUSTRIOUS BY HER BIRTH AND HIGH STATION.

INTERSPERSED WITH

ANECDOTES

of the

DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF

THE ROYAL FAMILY,

AND OF

THE HIGHER ORDERS OF NOBILITY;

WHOSE TALENTS AND BEAUTY HAVE RENDERED

THE BRITISH COURT

PRE-EMINENTLY SUPERIOR TO EVERY OTHER COURT IN EUROPE,

During this long and splendid Reign.

Dedicated to His Royal Highness George Prince of Wales.

THE WHOLE BEING COLLECTED, ARRANGED, AND WRITTEN

BY W. M. CRAIG, ESQ.

ASSISTED BY THE

Communications of many Distinguished Persons.

CAXTON PRESS:

PRINTED BY HENRY FISHER, LIVERPOOL,

Printer in Ordinary to His Majesty;

And Sold at his Warehouse, 87, Bartholomew Close, London; and in the principal Towns of the United Kingdom.

AAU817

TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

GEORGE PRINCE OF WALES,

Regent

Of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

SIR,

THOSE who are permitted to approach You, if they contemplate only Your high station, as the greatest Sovereign in the world, will find their hearts filled with reverence, and their limbs with fear and trembling; but with those who have had the opportunity of witnessing how graciously Your Royal Highness can temper dignity with condescension, the reverence remains the same, while the fear is converted into admiration and love. I beg leave, Sir, to lay at Your feet a faithful MEMOIR of my Royal Patroness, the illustrious QUEEN of these great and powerful Kingdoms. If I be charged with presumption in thus approaching Him, who acts so ably in the name and on behalf of my Sovereign, I would answer, that on such an occasion I feel I have no option. When the object in pursuit is to detail the interesting and exemplary life of the *best of Mothers*, to whom can I dedicate it, but to one who has proved himself the *best of Sons*.

With profound and dutiful respect,

I remain,

Sir,

Your Royal Highness's

Most obedient and devoted Servant,

W. M. CRAIG.

IF there be an undertaking in human affairs more gratifying than another to the best feelings of the heart, it must be that which is to record the occurrences of a life that exhibits, in uninterrupted continuance, the practice of every virtue.—That I have been selected for this delightful task, I greatly rejoice, though I feel that I am more qualified for it by zeal than by talent: but the high and powerful assistance which I have received will serve to make up my deficiency; and I know that the generous feelings of the nation will go with me through every step in the Work.

W. M. CRAIG.

London, Dec. 1. 1818,

Blake sc.

His Majesty George the Third

King of Great Britain, &c.

Published by Henry Baker Caxton, Liverpool. Oct 1.1818.

Blake sc.

His Majesty
George the Third
King of Great Britain, &c.

Published by Henry Fisher Caxton, Liverpool Oct 1.1818.

VIEW OF THE OLD PALACE AT KEW.

Buckingham House the private residence of Her Majesty Queen Charlotte

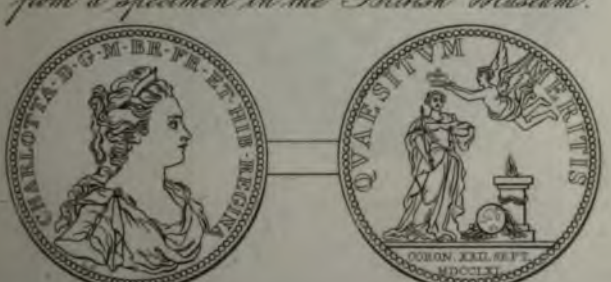
His Royal Highness
George Prince of Wales
Regent of Great Britain, &c.

Published by Nuttall Fisher & Dixon, Liverpool, June 1816.

The Medal distributed to commemorate the King's Coronation from a Gold specimen in the British Museum.

Medallion worn by the Ladies of the Royal Family, and of the Court on accompanying the King to St. Paul's Church to return thanks for his recovery.

Gold Medal to commemorate the Queen's Coronation from a specimen in the British Museum.



Published by Henry Fisher, Caxton, Liverpool, Feb. 1838.

Apothecaries of the Princes Octavius & Alfred
and of the Princess Amelia.
The former from Pictures by Gainsborough in the Queens Palace.
& the latter from a fine Miniature in the possession of
Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester.

Published by Henry Bohn, Queen's Chapel, March 1st 1841.

"Very true!" —— Her Majesty's last words.

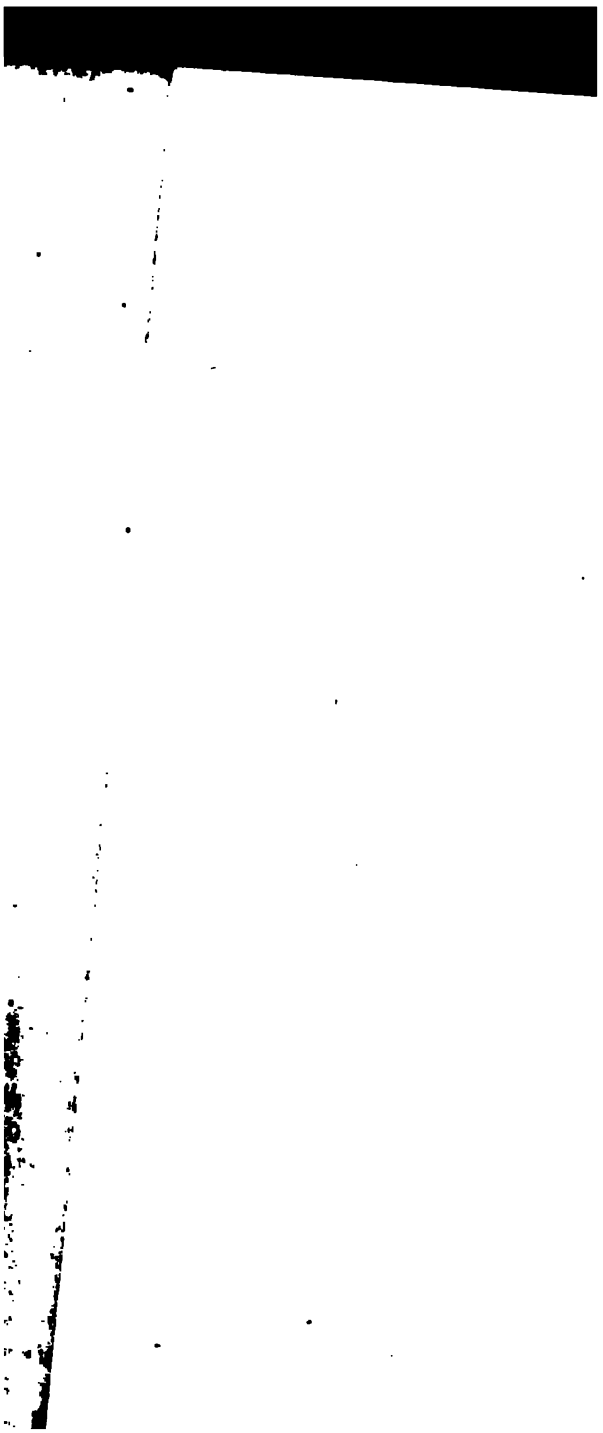
Sketch of the justly venerated Queen Charlotte of England, at Five o'Clock in the Evening before her lamented death.

From a Description given by —— ——— who was then present.

Fac-simile of an Order for Books given by Her Majesty. —— See p. 297.

Addison on the general Subjects of Christianity.
Nelson on the Festivals.
d Lyttelton on the Conversion of St Paul.
:s1 on the Resurrection.
eldo on the Sacrament.

male Biography or Memoires of remar
le & illustrious of all Ages & Countries
6. vol. 12 mo.
ors of Persons of Distinction.
iers of Lord Russel, Dr Johnson's, Mr Gray,
Cowper, Fitzosborne, Mrs Rowe, & Miss
Rowe.



Troymore
the 15th August.
1804.

Charlotte

The Queen desires Mr Cowden to give every proper directions to the Servants respecting their Conduct in particular that no alterations in any thing whatever may take place without His being informed of it.

Publishid by Henry Fisher, Caston, Liverpool. April, 1819.

MEMOIR

OF

HER MAJESTY

SOPHIA CHARLOTTE,

QUEEN OF GREAT BRITAIN,

&c.

WHEN George the Second died, and his grandson ascended the throne of Britain, a new and splendid Æra seemed to be opening on the delighted and expecting people. A young and accomplished King, born in England, bred in England, mild, learned, laborious, and having none but English feelings, could not fail to excite such sentiments and expectations. In the year 1761, the name and power of Britain were beginning again to shine forth with their native lustre, which had been greatly tarnished by the supineness and inaction of half a century: she appeared as a giant in strength, waging successful war in every quarter of the globe. France was then a great power in Europe, though burdened with excessive debt; yet she was beginning to feel the superiority of that rival neighbour by whom she has since been humbled: Spain, who, since her adoption of a Bourbon for her sovereign, was little more than an appendage to France, was still respectable, by the amount of her foreign treasures, (of which, however, the sailors of Britain contrived most freely to par-

take): Germany was torn by the numerous armies of contending native powers, each, in turn, courting this prosperous nation, for countenance and support: while Russia, opposing herself to the interests of England, was carrying on a feeble and unsuccessful warfare on the shores of the Baltic. To add to these grounds of national exultation, the armies of Britain were reaping great harvests of victorious laurels in the East and West Indies, in America, and on the continent of Europe; while her ships of traffic were conveying her colonial or native commodities to the remotest parts of the world, and her ships of war were rapidly annihilating the external commerce and the maritime strength of every opposing nation.

The hearts of Englishmen glowed and beat high with the consciousness of these triumphant proofs of their importance; for as yet that sort of bastard philosophy which affects to consider the love of country as a weakness, had not developed itself—it had been but hinted at in the brilliant, but profligate, writings of Rousseau and Voltaire.

The English are enthusiasts for that freedom which is peculiar to the British constitution, and they had the happiness of knowing that their King had, upon this point, the same feelings as themselves; they had the satisfaction of hearing him express these feelings the first time he met the august assembly of the national representatives. These sentiments were also reiterated in the parliament of Ireland by the Lord Lieutenant of that kingdom. After lamenting the death of George the Second, he proceeds to say, "Your grief, however, has been alleviated, and your loss repaired, by the succession of His Majesty, not only to the throne, (his legal inheritance,) but to the duty, the affection, and the confidence of his subjects. You can be no strangers to His Majesty's most gracious declaration, that the preser-

vation of the Constitution in Church and State, and the enforcing a due obedience to the laws, (not more necessary to his own authority than to the liberties of his people,) shall be the first and constant object of his care. And I have it particularly in command to declare to you, that his subjects of this kingdom are fully and in every respect comprehended in these assurances."

A proof that this knowledge of the constitution, and reverence for its principles, were firmly and early fixed in the King's breast, has been communicated to me by a nobleman who was present on the occassion. A person in very high station, who had the privilege of addressing his Sovereign with unlimited freedom, but who, doubtless, never made use of that privilege except for his own purposes, endeavoured one day to induce the King to stop some proceeding of his then Ministers. The reply ought to be remembered by every one: "My Lord Duke," said His Majesty, with great mildness, "if I had the least reason to suspect that my ministers entertained any one principle hostile to the British Constitution, I should feel it my duty immediately to dismiss them; but while that Constitution lays the responsibility on them, I cannot think it just to interfere in the details by which they carry on measures which I approve."

This young, but excellent, Prince, had an innate love of peace—every good man loves peace from principle—yet he came to the throne burdened, as it were by inheritance, with an ill-advised foreign war, which would never have been undertaken had his predecessor been an Englishman. The King expressed at every opportunity this love, this desire for peace; but he knew that to obtain it he must shew himself able to command it; and the vigour of his councils, aided by the unanimous support of the people, gave every reason to hope that those wishes would not be in vain.

I cannot deny myself the pleasure of inserting here a stanza from the Ode performed in celebration of His Majesty's first Birth-day, after his accession to the throne. It states, in a high strain of poetry, what the nation would expect from such a happy combination of virtues, youth, and talents.

O! call'd by heav'n to fill that awful throne
Where Edward, Henry, William, George, have shone,
(Where love with rev'rence, law with pow'r agree,
And 'tis each subject's birth-right to be free;)
The fairest wreaths already won
Are but a prelude to the whole:
Thy arduous race is now begun,
And, starting from a nobler goal
Heroes and kings of ages past
Are thy compeers: extended high
The trump of fame expects the blast,
The radiant lists before thee lie:
The field is *Time*, the prize *Eternity!*

Beyond example's bounded light
'Tis thine to urge thy daring flight,
And heights untry'd explore:
O think what thou alone canst give,
What blessings Britain may receive,
When *Youth* unites with *Pow'r!*

The inspirations of the muse seemed on this happy occasion to reach every class of persons, and the poetical effusions were innumerable. I will, however, quote but one more, and that only in an extract, though the whole of it is fine. It is a juvenile tribute to a youthful King, and was spoken at Merchant Tailors' school: it seems decidedly to prove that the complimentary poet is capable of higher flights, if he have truth to sustain and guide him.

Yet never could the British race,
The summit of their glory gain,
Tho' Cressy's field their annals grace;
Tho' loud they boast *Eliza*'s reign:

Now, now, to wreaths before unsought
Intent they stretch the glowing thought;
And while they hail the Prince's name,
Prophetic trace the fulness of their fame!

O! bid, lov'd Prince! their purpose live;
Their purpose honest zeal inspires:
Cherish the hopes thy virtues give,
'Till each improves as he admires;
'Till all thy fair example own,
And catch new spirit from the throne,
To more exalted rapture rise,
And meet bright glory's blaze with *hardier* eyes.

But the people, thus blessed in possession and in prospect, felt that they had enjoyments, that they had felicities, which the King had not; and they wished to see their Sovereign married. The great mass of my countrymen are virtuous and discerning; and they can conceive no idea of complete happiness but what involves a chaste and religious union of the sexes. The English sustain this sentiment by example; and I have no hesitation to state my thorough conviction that, with respect to their conjugal engagements, they are the most virtuous people that ever existed on the face of the earth. There may have been some fluctuations in the practice, as to the degree, according as our communications with France were open or suspended; but at all times, a bad husband, or an unfaithful wife, has been an object of contempt and detestation amongst us.

The wishes of the people for his marriage, and for a lineal successor, were strongly intimated to the King, and were as strongly seconded by the arguments of his Family and his Ministers. A wise and good Monarch will never turn from the solicitations of his people; but an union for life must be, to a wise and prudent man, a matter of serious weight and deliberate consideration. Dowry was not to be an object, either in wealth or

in territory: England possessed at that time a greater extent of dominion than any other power in Europe; she was rich too by her unrivalled commerce, and her King was rich in the love and devotedness of his people. It was therefore the treasures of the heart and mind that were to be looked for in the person with whom he might form this desired union. George the Third required virtues, like his own, accompanied by fervent unaffected piety; and this combination was certainly not easy to find. The different Royal Families on the Continent, professing the Protestant faith, were brought in review before him, and successively dismissed without *a decision;* and the hopes of the people seemed as if they were not soon to be realized, when a letter was shewn to the King, which excited important sensations in his bosom. It was addressed to King Frederic of Prussia, who was at that time the admired hero and warrior of the Continent, yet who carried with him, wherever he went in the execution of his plans, that ruin and devastation which will ever be attendant upon even the best disciplined armies. The following is a translation of this important letter:

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

(*a*) "I am at a loss whether I should congratulate or "condole with you on your late victory; since the same "success which has covered you with laurels, has overspread "the country of Mecklenburg with desolation. I know, "Sire, that it seems unbecoming in my sex, in this age of "vicious refinement, to feel for one's country, to lament the "horrors of war, or to wish for the return of peace. I know "you may think it more properly my province to study the "arts of pleasing, or to inspect subjects of a more domestic "nature; but however unbecoming it may be in me, I can-"not resist the desire of interceding for this unhappy "people.

"It was but a very few years ago that this territory wore "the most pleasing appearance. The country was culti-

"vated, the peasant looked cheerful, and the towns abounded "with riches and festivity. What an alteration at present "from such a charming scene! I am not expert at de- "scribing, nor can my fancy add any horrors to the picture; "but sure even conquerors themselves would weep at the "picture now before me. The whole country, my dear "country, lies before me one frightful waste, presenting "objects only to excite terror, pity, and despair. The "business of the husbandman and the shepherd are quite "discontinued; the husbandman and the shepherd are "become soldiers themselves, and assist to ravage the soil "they formerly cultivated. The towns are inhabited only "by old men, women, and children, with, perhaps, here and "there a wounded or dismembered warrior left, as useless, "at his door. See how his little children come round him, "ask the history of every wound, and grow almost soldiers "themselves before they have strength for the trial, or "before they have judgment to calculate the distresses that "war brings on mankind. But this, even this, might be "borne, did we not feel the alternate insolence of either "army, as it happens to advance or retreat, in pursuing the "objects of the campaign: it is impossible to express the "confusion, which those, who even call themselves our "friends, create; and those, from whom we might expect "redress, oppress us with new calamities. From your "justice, Sire, it is therefore that we hope for relief; to you "even women and children may complain, whose humanity "stoops to the meanest petition, and whose power is capable "of repressing the greatest injustice.

"I am,

"Sire," &c.

(*b*) Inquiries were ordered to be made respecting the character of one who could write a letter like this, not inferior, except in its brevity, to the finest compositions of the most celebrated orators of ancient or modern times. The anxiety was great on all sides during this apparent suspension of the subject so desired by all; for the inquiries, with proper delicacies, were made most privately, and through channels that could not be known or suspected. The people knew nothing of this, and,

therefore, looked with great impatience to the time when they might again see a Queen upon the throne; for they well remembered what they had lost in the late Queen Caroline, whose judicious and liberal patronage of the literature, the arts, and the manufactures of the country, had been productive of the most important benefits to all classes.

The accomplished female, selected at length to consummate the wishes of the nation in making the King happy, was the Princess Sophia Charlotte of Mecklenburg Strelitz, a territory so small and in so remote a corner of Germany, as almost to have escaped the notice of travellers. Fame, with her many tongues, had already proclaimed in every quarter of Europe the good sense, the knowledge, the virtues, the acquirements, of this incomparable young Lady, who at seventeen years old was found competent to correspond with one of the most distinguished Sovereigns then living. But if such and so great were her eminent qualities, her birth and ancestry were even more illustrious. The House of Mecklenburg traces its origin without difficulty up to Anthyrius king of the Vandals, in the year three hundred and twenty-three before the Christian Æra. The history of this heroic and warlike people, whom the haughty Italians, in the pride of self-sufficiency, branded with the opprobrious appellation of Barbarians, exhibits all the traces of a great and aspiring nation. We find them at an early period not only opposing successful resistance to the arms of that city which was called the mistress of the world; but we find them not long after, extending their impetuous and well-planned excursions from the shores of the Baltic to the banks of the Tiber, making Rome tremble for its safety, and threatening even the confines of the Emperor of Constantinople. We see again these triumphant Vandals returning to

their native lands, there to cultivate, under the wise government of their kings, those arts of peace, industry, and agriculture, so necessary to fill up the fearful chasms which even the most successful warfare will not fail to make in the population of a country. By successive invasions and retreats of this kind, rushing forwards like the resistless waves of the ocean, and then retiring to collect new force, these Vandals subdued all Germany, France, Italy, and Spain, and gave laws even to some parts of Africa. In the latter of these incursions, some of their princes and leaders began to settle themselves in the conquered countries, and thus became the leaders or founders of most of the great families in Europe. But these powers, established on the feudal system, were subject to, and experienced all the vicissitudes of triumph, of deprivation, the alternation of rule and subjection, which have appeared invariably to be inseparable from a state of society in which the power of the sword is the rule of law. One of these Vandal Sovereigns is mentioned in History as King of the Venedi and Obotrites, and as being slain in a great battle in 795, contemporary with the time of Charlemagne, the great restorer of the western empire, with whom he was in alliance. To him succeeded a race of kings down to the time of Pribislaus II. who, after a bloody war, to which the battle of Demmin put an end in 1164, was dispossessed of his dominions by Henry the Lion, Duke of Saxony and Bavaria, ancestor of His present Majesty George the Third. Pribislaus was afterwards restored to a great part of his dominions by the Prince who had dethroned him; but he was deprived of the regal title; and in him the kingdom of the Venedi and Obotrites had a final period in 1167. From that time till the year 1348, the Sovereigns of the country were styled Lords and Princes of Mecklenburg. In 1348,

Albert I. a descendant of Pribislaus II. was created Duke of Mecklenburg and Prince of the Empire by the Emperor Charles the Fourth, and his posterity continue still in possession of this dignity.

Towards the middle of the seventeenth century, this illustrious House came to be divided into the two lines of Mecklenburg Schwerin and Mecklenburg Strelitz: Adolphus-Frederic, who died in 1708, was the first independent Sovereign of the Strelitz portion. His Great-granddaughter, the interesting subject of this Memoir, the Princess Sophia Charlotte, was born at the little town of Mitrow, in the old ducal palace, in 1744.

From this short historical sketch, it will be evident that there is not a Sovereign Family in Europe able to boast of greater antiquity and splendour of descent than the Serene House of Mecklenburg. The Monarchs of Denmark, Sweden, Poland, and Prussia, have married Princesses of this illustrious House; most of the German Princes have followed the example, and Britain, I am prepared to shew, has had her full share of those high qualities which have always distinguished the Family.(c)

It has been well observed by a deep inquirer into human nature, that if you would have the true character of any persons, you must ask it of their servants and dependents. Let us try that of Her Serene Highness the Princess of Strelitz, by this rule. When she left her native country, in order to embark for England, the people of Strelitz rushed forth, in a mass, to accompany her on the way, shedding tears for their loss, and uttering the most fervent prayers for her future happiness. On a plain which the road traverses, they had erected, with the best means of art the country afforded, a triumphal arch, decorated with green boughs and festoons of flowers, for their beloved

Princess to pass under. The arch was surmounted by the United Arms of Strelitz and England; to which four figures, personifying the quarters of the globe, were doing homage; thus intimating the high character of Britain. Within the arch, on each side, were placed six young girls, daughters of the principal townsmen, dressed in white, with wreaths of flowers round their heads, and having each in one hand a crown of myrtle. Her Highness stopped under the arch, to hear a farewell address delivered by the Burgomaster, Tangatz, in the name of the Corporation and Citizens:

"Illustrious Duchess and most gracious Lady; your Royal Highness is at present leaving that country whose happiness it has hitherto been to admire in you the model of a perfect Princess. You leave it to share with the greatest Monarch in Europe, a throne respected through every part of the world. The instant is at hand when your Royal Highness will, for ever, be withdrawn from our eyes. This affects us the more sensibly from the apprehension that the many great and brilliant objects with which you will henceforth be encircled, will efface so small a place as ours from your inestimable remembrance; yet that goodness which we have hitherto with transport admired in your Royal Highness, revives our drooping spirits: it assures us that you will, even from the throne, graciously condescend to look back on our town, and will continue to be the patron of those, whose happiness it is to be the subjects of your illustrious Family. We, therefore, in full confidence, give ourselves up to that lively joy excited in us all, on the glorious union to which the Divine Providence has thus called your Royal Highness."

This address has nothing in it of the fulsome language of adulation: it seems to flow from the warmth of sensible and affectionate hearts. When it was concluded, the twelve young maidens threw their myrtle crowns into the coach, each repeating a short poetical tribute, expressing respect, attachment, and good wishes.

When Her Serene Highness arrived at Hamburgh, we find the same testimonies to her character and

virtues displayed by the British merchants resident in that city. They say in their address on the occasion:

"The British nation have a fresh proof of our Monarch's great wisdom, in the choice of your most Serene Highness as his Queen; a Princess affording the highest expectations of further felicity to a kingdom, that had but one wish left, and which they will soon enjoy, a mother to their country.

"Our residence in the neighbourhood of your most Serene Highness's birth and abode, gives us the agreeable opportunity, earlier than our countrymen at home, of expressing our joy and admiration at a virtue and merit beyond our power to describe."

But warmed with this interesting part of the subject, I have somewhat allowed myself to anticipate. For the sake of method, we must return to Strelitz, where the Earl of Harcourt, minister plenipotentiary from England, arrived on the 14th August, 1761, and the next morning, at eleven o'clock, performed the ceremony of asking in form her Serene Highness the Princess Sophia Charlotte in marriage for the King his master. The moment the contract of marriage was signed, the cannons fired, and in the evening the gardens of the castle were illuminated with more than forty thousand lamps; which example was soon followed by the whole town. On the 16th also there was a grand festival and entertainments. On the 17th, Her Highness set out on her journey, accompanied by the reigning Duke her brother, being complimented by all the public bodies in her way, and also receiving a congratulatory address from the Count de Gotter in the name of His Prussian Majesty. On the 22nd, the Princess reached Cuxhaven, and embarked on board the Yatch, attended by the Duchesses of Ancaster and Hamilton, the Earl of Harcourt, and Lord Anson. She was saluted by the whole squadron appointed to convoy her to England; and the moment she entered her cabin

she proceeded to the gallery, and bowed to the different officers who had crowded the decks of their ships in order to see her, and who were charmed with her politeness and affability.

The voyage was long and tedious, in which the little fleet had to encounter three severe storms; but on Monday the 7th of September, Her Serene Highness landed safely at Harwich, where she was received with due form and ceremony by the Mayor and Aldermen. Many circumstances which characterised the passage from the mouth of the Elbe to the British coast will form the subject of an interesting detail in the Appendix, for which I am promised a private communication from one of the few now remaining who were of the party. I hasten, therefore, to those events and proceedings which so rapidly followed the landing of the Princess.(*d*)

On the day of landing, and after the formalities at Harwich, Her Highness proceeded to the house of Lord Abercorn, at Witham in Essex, where she rested that night; and again setting forwards at eight o'clock in the morning, arrived at St. James's Palace at half an hour after three the same day. Her Highness alighted at the garden-gate, and was received by the King and Royal Family. The attention, the kindness, the tender regard, which were shewn on this occasion, to the Illustrious Guest by every one of her elected relatives, was truly impressive; but the heartful regard of the King was particularly manifest. It seemed, even on both sides, to be the beginning of that affectionate attachment which has lasted without the smallest diminution for so many years. At nine o'clock in the evening the marriage ceremony took place, and was performed in the Royal Chapel by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Thomas Secker. The following is the official account of this important proceeding.

St. James's, Tuesday, Sept. 8, 1761.—"This morning the solemnity of His Majesty's marriage with Her Serene Highness Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg, was performed in the Chapel Royal, by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The processions to and from the Chapel were in the following order:

The Procession of the BRIDE.

Drums and Trumpets.
The Sergeant Trumpeter.
The Princess's Servants.
A Page.
A Quarter Waiter.
A Gentleman Usher between the two Senior Heralds.
Vice-Chamberlain.
Maids of Honour.
Ladies of the Bedchamber, not Peeresses.
Peeresses.
Unmarried Daughters of Peers.

The King's Vice-Chamberlain. — The King's Lord Chamberlain.

The BRIDE, in her nuptial habit, supported by their Royal Highnesses the Duke of York and Prince William, her train borne by ten unmarried Daughters of Dukes and Earls; *viz.* Lady Sarah Lenox, Lady Caroline Russel, Lady Ann Hamilton, Lady Elizabeth Ker, Lady Harriet Bentinck, Lady Carolina Montagu, Lady Elizabeth Keppel, Lady Louisa Greville, Lady Elizabeth Harcourt, Lady Susan Strangways.

Her Serene Highness having been in this manner conducted to the Chapel, the Lord Chamberlain, and Vice-Chamberlain, with the two Heralds, returned to wait upon His Majesty.

The KING's Procession.

Drums and Trumpets, as before.
The Knight Marshal.
Pursuivants, and Heralds at Arms.
Knights of the Bath, not Peers; wearing their collars.
Privy Councillors, not Peers.

Comptroller of the Household. — Treasurer of the Household.

Barons.
Bishops.
Viscounts.
Earls.
The Lord Steward of the Household, being an Earl.
Marquisses.
Dukes.
Norroy and Clarencieux, Kings of Arms.

Two Sergeants at Arms. — Lord Privy Seal. Lord President. — Two Sergeants at Arms.

Lord Chancellor.
Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.
Garter, Principal King of Arms, with his white rod or sceptre,
between two Gentlemen Ushers.
The Earl Marshal.
His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland.
His Royal Highness Prince Frederick.
His Royal Highness Prince Henry.
The Sword of State, borne by the Duke of Bedford, Knight of the Garter, in his collar, between the Lord Chamberlain and Vice-Chamberlain.

The KING, wearing his collar.

Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard. Captain of the Life Guard. Captain of the Band of Pensioners.

The Gentlemen of the Bedchamber, in waiting.
The Master of the Robes.
Two Grooms of the Bedchamber.
Gentlemen Pensioners.

The order of the Procession in returning was as follows:

Drums and Trumpets.
Sergeant Trumpeter.
The Queen's Servants.
A Page.
A Quarter Waiter.
A Gentleman Usher, between two Heralds.
Pursuivants and Heralds at Arms.
Knights of the Baths, not Peers.
Privy Councillors, not Peers.
Unmarried Daughters of Peers.
Peeresses.
Peers as before.
Norroy and Clarencieux, Kings of Arms.
Lord Privy Seal.
Lord President.
Lord Chancellor.
Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.
Garter, between two Gentlemen Ushers.
The Earl Marshal.
His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland.
His Royal Highness Prince Frederick.
His Royal Highness Prince Henry.
The Sword of State, between the Lord Chamberlain and Vice-Chamberlain.

The KING.

The three Captains of the Guard.
The Gentlemen of the Bedchamber in waiting.
Master of the Rolls.
Two Grooms of the Bedchamber.

The QUEEN,

Conducted by her Lord Chamberlain and Vice-Chamberlain, supported by their Royal Highnesses the Duke of York and Prince William, her train borne as before.
The Lady of Her Majesty's Bedchamber in waiting.
Maids of Honour.
Gentlemen Pensioners.

There was no Court on the occasion of this important ceremony; and thus the youthful Queen's feelings were spared, at least for the present, that ardent gaze of inquisitive spectators which curiosity makes doubly penetrating on such an occasion, even with well-bred persons. Indeed, the privacy with which the whole negociation for the marriage was conducted, is highly creditable to the wisdom and delicacy of the King: His Majesty did not even announce his intention to the Council, till all the arrangements were completed. By this manner of proceeding, all those speculative discussions were prevented, in which the ephemeral writers of the day delight to indulge themselves, when a great public event is anticipated. At this period, however, the daily newspapers had confined their essays principally to what concerned the Government and the Royal Family: they had not, as yet, began that pernicious practice, so prevalent *now*, of dragging the most secret affairs of private families before the notice of the public, often, too often, for the purpose of distorting them; it was not yet the custom for reporters of newspapers to station themselves in the halls of noblemen's houses, in order to see who came to their sociable entertainments; it was not yet the custom for servants in private families to be bribed with half-a-crown each, payable at the newspaper-office, for every anecdote, whether true or false, that tended to expose the characters of their masters and mistresses,—in short, the abuse of the freedom of the press had hitherto been employed on political subjects only.

The establishment of the Queen's Household had been fixed by His Majesty three days before the solemnization of the marriage; consisting of a Lord Chamberlain, Vice-Chamberlain, a Mistress of the Robes, Ladies of the Bedchamber, &c. &c. in all ninety-one ladies, gentlemen, and menials;

in the list of which it must be remarked, because the remark is important, that there is not the name even of one foreigner.(*e*) This establishment was considered as exclusively, and without other control, to belong to Her Majesty, and secure from the eager grasp of new administrations: yet when the celebrated Charles James Fox formed a joint administration with the Grenvilles, after the death of the second Mr. William Pitt; with a greediness for place, that had been sharpened by years of fruitless expectation, a deputation was sent to wait upon Her Majesty, entreating leave to appoint her a new Lord Chamberlain. This august Lady replied, with her usual graciousness, but promptly, "Gentlemen, Lord M—— has served me for many years to my entire satisfaction. I have had no cause to doubt his zeal, his fidelity, or his talents, on any occasion. If, however, you can shew me any reason why I should dismiss him, except that you want his place, I promise you I will take it into serious consideration."

Buckingham House (*f*) was assigned as Her Majesty's private residence, which, if not the finest building in England, is unquestionably *the best to be seen*, standing in a large and entirely open space, at the west end of St. James's Park, and commanding a fine view along the Canal to the Horse-guards; it has a most imposing and magnificent appearance, highly creditable to a great nation.

How this amiable, this highly-endowed Pair, spent the time between the marriage and the coronation, is not for the biographer to inquire: we may justly conclude that it was passed in becoming mutually acquainted with each other, and in laying the basis of that tender attachment which has been since such an instructive lesson to the world; for

> Great souls by instinct to each other turn,
> Demand alliance, and in friendship burn;

and we may fairly conclude also, that some part of this time was employed in making the Royal Bride gradually acquainted with the Ladies who were to form her future Court. In the mean time, the great, the solemn day approached, when Their Majesties were to be exhibited to the public, in performing one of the most impressive ceremonies of a king's reign. Day and night, *for a considerable time* previously, numberless artizans of every kind had been making preparations; and the people were all eagerness.

On the 22d of September, the King and Queen came to Westminster, before Nine o'clock: His Majesty retired into the Court of Wards, and Her Majesty into the Black Rod's room; where they continued until the Officers of Arms ranged the Procession into order, and brought the persons down from the Court of Requests, Painted Chamber, and House of Lords, into Westminster Hall.

Their Majesties being there seated, at the upper end of it, under their states, (Her Majesty's chair being on the left side of His Majesty,) and being attended by the Duke of Ancaster, Lord Great Chamberlain of England, the Duke of Bedford, Lord High Constable, and the Earl of Effingham, Earl Marshal, and by the great officers; the four swords and spurs were presented and laid upon the table before His Majesty.

Then the Dean and Prebendaries of Westminster, in a solemn procession, brought from the Abbey the Holy Bible, with the following Regalia belonging to His Majesty; St. Edward's Crown, upon a cushion of velvet laced with gold, the Orb with a Cross, the Sceptre with a Dove, the Sceptre with the Cross, and St. Edward's Staff: as likewise the Regalia of Her Majesty: her Crown, on the like cushion, her Sceptre with the Cross, and the Ivory Rod with the Dove:—which were severally laid before Their Majesties. All which were

afterwards, by His Majesty's command, delivered to the Lords, who are hereafter mentioned to have borne them.

About Eleven of the clock, the Procession was begun on foot, from the Hall to the Abbey of Westminster, upon a way raised for that purpose, floored with boards, covered with blue cloth, and railed on each side, in the following manner:

The King's Herb Woman, followed by her six Maids, strewing the way with sweet Herbs.
The Dean's Beadle of Westminster, with his Staff.
The High Constable of Westminster, with his Staff, in a scarlet cloak.
A Fife.
Four Drums.
The Drum-Major.
Eight Trumpets.
A Kettle Drum.
Eight Trumpets.
The Serjeant Trumpeter.
The Six Clerks in Chancery, in gowns of black flowered satin, with black silk loops, and tufts upon the sleeves.
The Closet Keeper of the Chapel Royal.
The King's Chaplains, four abreast.
The two Sheriffs of London.
Thirteen Aldermen of London below the Chair, in their scarlet gowns.
The Recorder of London, single.
The Aldermen above the Chair, wearing their gold chains.
Eleven Masters in Chancery, in rich gowns.
The King's three younger Serjeants at Law, in scarlet gowns, their caps in their hands.
The King's Attorney General, Charles Pratt, Esq.
The King's Ancient Serjeant, David Poole, Esq.
Gentlemen of the Privy Chamber.
Barons of the Exchequer, and Justices of both Benches, in their judges' robes of scarlet, with their caps in their hands, the juniors first, two and two.
Chief Baron of the Exchequer, in his scarlet robe, with the collar of SS of gold.
Children of the Choir of Westminster, in surplices.
Serjeant of the Vestry, Serjeant Porter, in scarlet gowns.
Children of the Chapel Royal, in surplices, with scarlet mantles over them.
Choir of Westminster, in surplices, with their music books.
The Organ Blower. The Groom of the Vestry.
Gentlemen of the Chapel Royal, in scarlet mantles.
The Sub-Dean of Chapel Royal, in a scarlet gown, turned up with black velvet.
Prebendaries of Westminster, in surplices and capes, with their caps in their hands.
The Master of the Jewel House, with one of his Officers going by him, both in scarlet.
Bath, King of Arms, in his habit of the order, carrying his coronet in his hand.
Knights of the Bath, under the degree of Peers, in the full habits and collars of their order, two and two, carrying their caps and feathers in their hands.
Pursuivant at Arms, Blanch Lyon.
Privy Counsellors, not Peers, amongst them the Master of the Rolls.
His Majesty's Vice-Chamberlain, William Finch, Esq.
Rouge Croix. [Pursuivant at Arms.] Rouge Dragon.
Baronets, in their robes of estate; their coronets in their hands.
Barons, in their robes of estate; their coronets in their hands.

Standard Bearer of the Band of Gentlemen Pensioners.	Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard, in his robes.	Captain of the Horse, in waiting, in his robes.	Captain of the Band of Gentlemen Pensioners, in his robes.	Lieutenant of the Band of Gentlemen Pensioners.

A Gentleman of the King's Bedchamber.
Two Grooms of the Bedchamber.

Ensign of the Yeomen of the Guard.		Lieutenant of the Yeomen of the Guard.
Exempts.	The Yeomen of the Guard.	Exempts.

The Clerk of the Cheque to the Yeomen of the Guard.

N. B. All the Peers in the Procession were in their robes of estate; and such as were Knights of the Garter, Thistle, or Bath, wore the Collars of their respective Orders.

About half an hour after One, Their Majesties entered the Abbey, and were received by the Choir, singing the first Anthem, taken out of the cxxiid Psalm, "I was glad, &c." in the mean time Their Majesties went to their seats on the east side of the Throne.—The Archbishop of Canterbury, (Dr, Secker,) made the Recognition, in these words, "Sirs, I here present unto you King George the Third, the undoubted King of this Realm. Wherefore, all you who are come this day to do your homage, are you willing to do the same?" Whereupon the nobility and people signified their willingness and joy by loud and repeated acclamations, all with one voice crying out, "God save King George the Third!"

The second Anthem was then sung, Psalm xxi. verses 1, 2, 5, 6. "The King shall rejoice."

The first Oblation was then made by the King, being a pall, or altar cloth of gold, and an ingot, or wedge of gold of 1lb. weight; the Queen also offered a pall of gold. After which, Their Majesties took their seats on the south side of the altar. The regalia were severally presented to the Archbishop at the altar, and the great officers retired to their seats.

The Litany was sung by Dr. Keene, Bishop of Chester, and Dr. Ashburnham, Bishop of Chichester, the Choir singing the responses to the organ.

The Archbishop began the Communion Service, and after the Commandments, read the Prayer for the King, as the Collect for that day's solemnity, "Almighty God, whose kingdom is everlasting," &c. The Bishop of Rochester read the Epistle, 1 Peter xi. verses 13, 14, 15, 16, 17. And the Bishop of Litchfield read the Gospel, St. Matthew xxii. verses 15 to 22, inclusive.

The Archbishop began the Nicene Creed, which the Choir sung. Dr. Drummond, Bishop of Salisbury, (just nominated to the see of York,) then began his Sermon, and preached from 1 Kings x. verse 9, "Blessed be the Lord thy God, which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel: because the Lord loved Israel for ever, therefore made he thee King, to do judgment and justice."

At the beginning of the Sermon, His Majesty put on his cap of crimson velvet, turned up with ermine.

Sermon being ended, the Archbishop went to the King, and read the Declaration against Transubstantiation and the Authority of the Church of Rome; which His Majesty repeated, and afterwards signed the same.

His Majesty then took the Coronation Oath.

The third Anthem, or "Come, Holy Ghost," was then sung; after which the Archbishop read the Anointing Prayer; which being ended, the Choir sung the well known Coronation Anthem, "Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, anointed Solomon king; and all the people cried—God save the King! Long live the King! May the King live for ever!" composed by Handel. After which His Majesty removed to St. Edward's chair; and the Unction was performed by the Archbishop, four Knights of the Garter holding a pall over His Majesty during the Anointing, viz. the Duke of Devonshire, the Earl of Northumberland, the Earl

of Hertford, and Earl Waldegrave; and then the Archbishop standing up, said a blessing over His Majesty. The spurs were then presented, and His Majesty girt with the sword, which was afterwards offered and redeemed.

His Majesty was then invested with the armill, the purple robe or imperial pall, and orb, and afterwards receiving the ring, returned the orb to the altar.

The fifth Anthem sung, Psalm lxxxiv. verse 9. and Psalm xviii. verse 51. "Behold, O God our defender, and look upon the face of thine anointed." "Great prosperity givest thou unto thy King, and wilt shew loving kindness to thine anointed for evermore." Hallelujah.

The Marquis of Rockingham, deputy to the Duke of Norfolk, as Lord of the manor of Worksop, presented a right-hand glove to His Majesty, who, putting it on, received from the Archbishop the sceptre with the cross, and afterwards the sceptre with the dove, into his left hand; and the Marquis afterwards supported His Majesty's right hand, as occasion required.

The King sitting in King Edward's chair, the Archbishop set the Crown on the King's head; at the sight whereof the people, with loud and repeated shouts, cried "God save the King!" the trumpet sounded, and by a signal given, the guns in the Park were fired in an instant. The Archbishop set the Crown on His Majesty's head, about half an hour after Three o'clock, amidst the acclamations of an infinite number of spectators; upon which the Peers put on their coronets; the Dukes of Normandy and Aquitain, their hats; the Bishops, Knights of the Bath, and Judges, their caps; and the Kings of Arms, their crowns.

The sixth Anthem sung, Psalm cxlvii. verse 12. Isaiah xxxii. verse 1. Psalm xlviii. verse 7. Psalm xxi. verse 23. "Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem," &c.

Then the Archbishop presented the Bible, and pronounced the Benediction; and His Majesty kissed the Bishops, kneeling before him.

Whilst "Te Deum" was singing, His Majesty was enthroned; whereupon the Bishops performed their Homage, and then the Temporal Lords; first His Royal Highness the Duke of York, and His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, each for himself. Then the Duke of Devonshire, lord chamberlain, pronounced the words of the Homage for all the Dukes: the Marquis of Rockingham, for the Marquisses; Earl Talbot, lord high-steward, for the Earls; Viscount Say and Sele, for the Viscounts; and Lord Henley, lord high-chancellor, for the Barons; every peer likewise taking off his coronet, touched the King's crown, and kissed his left cheek.

During the Homage, His Majesty delivered the sceptre with the cross to the Marquis of Rockingham, (officiating as Lord of the manor of Worksop) to hold.

In the mean time, medals of His Majesty and the Queen were thrown about by the Treasurer of the Household.

The Coronation of His Majesty being finished, the Queen removed from her seat on the south-side of the area, to a chair placed before the altar, and was anointed (four Ladies holding a pall over Her Majesty) and afterwards invested with the ring, and crowned by the Archbishop: upon which the Peeresses put on their coronets. The Archbishop then delivered the sceptre into her right hand, and the ivory rod into her left hand.

Whilst the medals were scattered, and the Homage performed, the eighth Anthem was sung, as a conclusion of the King's Coronation, "The Lord is arisen," &c. Psalm lxxxiv. verse 11. Psalm xx. verse 6. Psalm xxi. verses 7, 8. Psalm lxxxv. verse 9. Psalm lxxii. verses 18, 19. and at the end of this

Anthem the drums beat, the trumpets sounded, and the people shouted "God save King George the Third! Long live King George! May the King live for ever!"

Then the Choir sung the ninth Anthem, from Psalm xlv. verses 1, 10, 14, 15, 16. Psalm xlv. verses 11, 17. Psalm cxlvii. verse 12. Isaiah xlix. verse 23.—"My heart is inditing," &c.

Then the Archbishop began the Offertory, "Let your light so shine," &c. after which the Choir sung, "Let my prayer come up into thy presence as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be as an evening sacrifice." Whilst this was singing, the King made his offerings of bread and wine, and a mark of gold; the Queen also made her offerings. The Archbishop then proceeded in the administration of the Holy Sacrament.

The Coronation office being performed, the King and Queen retired into King Edward's Chapel, and standing before the altar, took off their crowns, and delivered them with their sceptres to the Archbishop, who laid them before the altar there.

The King withdrew himself into his traverse, prepared for him upon the western wall of that chapel, the Queen in the mean time reposing herself in her chair.

The King was disrobed in his traverse of his royal robe of state, and again arrayed in his robe of purple velvet.

When the King came forth, the Queen arose, and they both stood before the altar, and the Archbishop set the crowns of state, provided for the King and Queen to wear during the rest of the solemnity, upon their heads, giving the sceptre with the cross into the King's right hand, and the orb with the cross into his left; as also the sceptre with the cross into the Queen's right hand, and the ivory rod into her left. The Archbishops and Bishops

divested themselves of their copes, and proceeded in their usual habits.

The four swords being borne before the King, and the Heralds again putting the Procession in order, they went out of the church at the west door, in the same manner as they came in, saving that the Peers who brought any of the regalia that were left in the church, returned not as they came, immediately before the King, but were ranked in their places according to their degrees or consecrations.

Their Majesties retired into the Court of Wards till dinner was ready; and then sitting in their chairs of state, the first course was brought up with the usual ceremony, Their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of York and Cumberland sitting at the end of the table on His Majesty's right hand; and Her Royal Highness the Princess Augusta, at the other end of the table, on the Queen's left hand. Before the second course, the Champion was brought up between the High-Constable and Earl Marshal, followed by four Pages, and preceded by the Herald, who pronounced the challenge, the Champion's two Esquires with his lance and target, two Sergeants at Arms and Trumpets, the Knight Marshal, going before to clear the passage.

Immediately after the return of the Champion, Garter, King of Arms, attended by the rest of the Heralds, proclaimed His Majesty's style in Latin, French, and English, three several times; first, upon the top of the steps near the table; next, in the middle of the hall; and, lastly, at the bottom of the hall.

The second course was then served up in the same order as the first. The several services, which had been allowed by the Court of Claims, were afterwards performed; and His Majesty was pleased, after dinner, to confer the honour of Knighthood, upon John Bridge, Esq. Standard-

Bearer, and Owen Jones, Esq. senior gentleman of the band of Gentlemen Pensioners, and Charles Townley, Esq. Clarencieux King of Arms.

Such is the official accouut, as preserved by the Lord-Chamberlain, of that important ceremony which secured to our country the delightful prospect of English Kings on the throne for several generations; but in this there could be no notice taken of the general appearance, and of the effect it had on the feelings and minds of the people. There are not many of those who were spectators on that memorable occasion, that have survived to the present time: from one of the few, however, I have obtained some interesting details.

The fronts of the houses in all the streets that could command the least point of view, were faced with scaffoldings, like galleries, or boxes, and were let, some of them, for very large sums, even a hundred guineas for the range of one floor. These were piled above one another up to the top of the roofs, and, being covered with rich carpets, or with cloths of different colours, presented, when combined with the number of richly dressed persons that were crowded into them, a most magnificent sight, without any other. The weather, too, which had been cloudy before, cleared up early in the day, as if in respect for so great a festival. The platform on which the Procession was to pass from Westminster Hall to the Abbey and back, was covered with blue cloth, and had an awning of sail-cloth fixed over it, in the prospect of bad weather; but as the day soon shone out, this was suddenly removed, and gave a fine view of the whole. The spectators who had engaged sittings in the newly erected galleries were obliged to occupy them over night, lest they should be prevented reaching them on the morning of the ceremony, by the expected

accumulation of the populace. To sit up all night in the open air, in order to obtain a sight that required sitting up all the next day in the same situation, was too much for the animal powers of a certain Irish Earl, remarkable for his unprovocable good humour. He had come over from his native kingdom, at the earnest entreaties of his family, to see the Coronation, and had paid fifty pounds for the seat he occupied; but just as the morning dawned, his tired eyelids closed, and, in spite of all the efforts made by his neighbours to awake him, he could not be roused into consciousness till the Procession had passed by. The worthy Peer, however, took the matter, as usual, without complaint: he said he had come to the Coronation to please his children, and if he had seen it, he could not have described it; so it was all the same: and he added, "I loved the King before with all my heart, and I could not have loved him better for seeing him with his crown on his head."

The platform was lined on each side with a range of foot soldiers; and it greatly surprised the spectators to see the familiar intercourse that was allowed between these men and the officers in command, till it was made known that these apparently private soldiers were all gentlemen, who had taken the uniform and the duty in order to have a near view of the Procession. The horse soldiers, too, formed a sort of protecting or covering line on each side of the platform; and it was curious to see them taking bribes to let the populace within their line, and then driving them back to extort a new bribe, which was always increased in proportion as the time of exhibition drew nigh.

The King and Queen were punctual to a moment in their arrival; but they had to wait long for those whose duty it was to have been first ready. However, every thing being fully arranged, the Procession set out for the Abbey, and presented such a

pageant of elegance, splendour, and magnificence, as no effort of imagination can even approach: but above all things in this dazzling show, the hearts and eyes of the spectators were riveted by the truly royal grandeur of His Majesty's deportment, by the gentle unassuming gracefulness of the Queen, and by the bright exhibition of British beauty in the Ladies who attended Her Majesty.

Persons, and very few indeed they were, who had what is called pass-tickets, had the enviable privilege of seeing the ceremony both in the Hall and in the Abbey. That which took place in Westminster Hall was the most entertaining; but that which was performed in the Abbey was instructive, sublime, and awful. The circumstance of a great Monarch, newly come to the throne, appearing in the consecrated house of God, for the purpose of taking oaths of respect and attachment to the Constitution, and thus precluding every possibility of an arbitrary exertion of his sovereign power, is a sight that must touch the heart of every Briton; but when to this was added the truly Christian piety and devotedness, with which the King went through the whole of this solemn religious ceremony, it may easily be believed, as I have been told, that every spectator was wrought up to an *enthusiasm* of tears.

When the Procession returned to Westminster Hall, the whole place, by much the largest saloon in the world, was brilliantly and profusely lighted with innumerable chandeliers and branches, containing near three thousand wax candles. Instead of the inclosures for the Courts of Chancery and King's Bench, at the upper end, which were entirely removed, there was a platform raised with several ascents of steps, on which Their Majesties sat to dine, in their chairs of state; at various tables round the Hall, were dining all the great Nobility and Gentry of the kingdom, arrayed in the most

costly habits, and shining with the most splendid jewellery; in the galleries round, were immense numbers of spectators, all gaily or richly dressed; and presenting, in the whole, such a blaze of splendour, as to be almost insupportable to the sight. The eye, however, was occasionally diverted by seeing the many little stratagems by which the people in the galleries contrived to partake of the feast below. The ladies tied their handkerchiefs together, to draw up a chicken or a bottle of wine, and even garters were put into requisition for the same purpose.

The King and Queen returned to St. James's at Ten o'clock, having very graciously remained till the Peeresses were withdrawn, that they might not be incommoded by the crowd pressing to see Their Majesties. The populace were then, according to custom, let into the Hall, to partake of what was left, and very soon cleared away every thing moveable. In going through the preparations and proceedings of this awful and laborious ceremony, Their Majesties spent eleven hours, with the most indefatigable attention and good humour, appearing to understand every part of it much better than the persons whose business it was to arrange and direct the whole.

Medals had been struck to commemorate the great national event, which were freely distributed: those of copper and silver were thrown amongst the populace during the return of the Procession; those of gold were chiefly thrown amongst the Peeresses, who did not, however, even stoop to pick them up. An engraving of one of these medals will be given for the Appendix.

Thus then we see this distinguished Pair united in solemn bonds before God, consecrated and crowned in his holy temple, and setting out in a long and difficult career, through which they were

to offer one unvarying example of wisdom and goodness to a people that loved and revered them. It is for the advantage of the world at large, that we should inquire what qualities, what endowments they brought into this union, for so great and difficult a task. If History be philosophy reading lectures on the passions and errors of man, Biography is surely man speaking instructively from his own feelings.

The King, in his infancy, and in his youth, had been purposely kept from a free intercourse with the young Nobility of his time; for they were, generally speaking, loose and profligate. The society of the Metropolis, as far as concerned the noble and the wealthy, was little altered from what it had been under the pernicious auspices of Charles the Second. There were no domestic circles in which mutual esteem could be excited by genuine demonstrations of talent and sentiment: the women were generally left to themselves, if modest; and were soon involved in intrigues, if inclined to be otherwise: the men dined at taverns and public places, commonly drinking to excess, then resorting to theatres or brothels to finish their evenings, which were frequently stained with bloodshed, and even with murder; for then every man, called a gentleman, wore a sword by his side when dressed for the afternoon. The Court, during the latter part of the last reign, had offered no corrective to this state of society. The levees of a feeble and morose old man, knowing little besides the duties of a soldier, and speaking very imperfect English, could not be expected to draw together any other than those whose duty compelled their attendance. It is most important that this state of society, at the commencement of the present reign, should be strongly kept in mind. George the Third knew scarcely that such vices existed: he was completely conversant with languages; he was well

read in history, and in the sciences; he had a surpassing memory; he reverenced the Bible as the inspired word of God; and he was heartily devoted to the National Church, as believing it to be entirely founded in the Bible. On the other hand, Queen Charlotte was highly educated; she was of a family that had repeatedly fought and bled for the Protestant religion, a family of which the female members had more than once given up their jewels for the support of the persecuted Protestants; she was gentle and modest to a high degree; and she was, at sixteen years old, so distinguished for her piety, that Muller, an eminent German writer of that time, dedicated to her, as the fittest person, his "Letters in Defence of Christianity," which have since been translated into English by one of Her Majesty's daughters.

Such an assemblage of virtues and pre-eminent qualities were certainly never before concentrated in one marriage; and the people felt all the high enthusiasm of hope that such circumstances warranted. Addresses of congratulation poured in from every part of the Kingdom; but I will select parts of two only.

The City of London, ever the first to address, either for the purpose of congratulation or complaint, approached Her Majesty in these words:

"We humbly beg leave to express in your Royal Presence, the exceeding great joy we feel in Your Majesty's safe arrival, so ardently wished for, and so impatiently expected; and at the same time to congratulate Your Majesty's most happy Nuptials with a Monarch, whose early wisdom, fortitude, and piety, add lustre to the diadem he wears, and render him the darling, as well as the Father, of his People.

"We do, with that honest warmth and sincerity which characterize the British Nation, humbly assure Your Majesty, that as the many virtues, and amiable endowments, which Your Majesty possesses in so eminent a degree, cannot fail to bless our beloved Sovereign with every domestic happiness; so will they ever endear Your Majesty to a People, not more

[illegible] of their love of liberty and their country, than [illegible] loyalty and gratitude to those Princes [illegible] deserve protection and prosperity."

The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge addressed the Throne, on the Royal Nuptials; and that of Cambridge was thus worded, in its principal paragraph:

"We cannot but ascribe it to a principle of the most tender regard for your People, so conspicuous in every part of Your Majesty's conduct, that Your Majesty should turn your earliest thoughts to a matter so highly interesting to the happiness of your Kingdoms, and so necessary to make that happiness permanent to posterity. Your choice of a Princess for your Consort, endowed with such virtues, and distinguished by such personal accomplishments, as will add lustre to a Throne, while they alleviate the cares of it, gives the surest prospect of domestic happiness to Your Majesty, and of universal satisfaction to your loyal and affectionate People."

The King, in the reasonable fulness of his joy, thus expressed himself to his Parliament:

"My Lords, and Gentlemen,

"At the opening of the first Parliament, summoned and elected under my authority, I with pleasure take notice of an event, which has made me completely happy, and given universal joy to my loving subjects. My marriage with a Princess eminently distinguished by every virtue and amiable endowment, whilst it affords me all possible domestic comfort, cannot but highly contribute to the happiness of my Kingdoms; which has been, and always shall be, the first object in every action of my life."

The Queen's first care was to form her Court upon such principles of selection as were congenial to the purity of her own mind: while she was gracious and condescending to all that addressed her, she was properly desirous that the British Court should exhibit the grandeur and dignity of a great and powerful nation. She began by endeavouring to repress, in her own immediate circle, that fulsome adulation which is too prevalent in those who

attend upon sovereign power. Being one day surrounded by those Ladies whose duty it was, generally, to be near the Queen, Lady Mary ——— launched out into high encomiums on the personal accomplishments and eminent virtues of the King. When she had finished, Her Majesty answered, with great sweetness, "I can allow you to speak highly of my friends, or of those that I love—it is gratifying to my heart, and I have my own knowledge of the persons to compare with your praises, so that I shall not be likely to form a wrong judgment; but I wish, most earnestly, to request that whenever you speak to me of those whom I do not know, you would be *very correct*, lest I should be guilty of an injustice by forming a wrong opinion of them from your representations."

If this be compared with the celebrated reproof of King Canute to his courtiers, it will be found to display the same love of truth, the same wisdom, expressed with the softness and delicacy of an accomplished female.

Having thus prepared some of the Nobility, Her Majesty, at the King's suggestion, decided to hold a series of Drawing Rooms every year, at which the Nobility and Gentry of the country might come into personal contact with their Sovereigns; and both deemed it a fit occasion for promoting domestic manufactures. With this view, and to accomplish the great object of the Queen's wishes, it was intimated, though privately, that Her Majesty would not receive any lady at the Drawing Room, on whose character there might be any public blemish; and it was also an understanding, that no lady or gentleman should come in the same dress to any two Drawing Rooms in the same year. The beneficial effects of the last principle were soon felt by the silk weavers, embroiderers, and various other manufacturers and workmen in the kingdom; and the result of the whole arrangements soon

made the British Court the most correct and splendid Court in Europe.

Under the former reign, even while the Queen was living, the assemblies at Court were dull and uninteresting. The King and Queen, and, latterly, the King only, came into the Drawing Room, spoke to such as they knew, walked about for a few minutes, and then retired. Those who had the privilege of being admitted, came or not, as they chose, but generally for the purpose of being thought visitors at Court, which gave many a currency with the public that they could not otherwise have obtained; but at the new Court, as thus arranged, the King, or the Queen, appeared as the splendid irradiating sun of a crowded circle of planets, shining with diffused brilliancy; but, differing from the planetary system, the King and Queen made a custom of going round the circle of their visitors, speaking and saying something gracious, enlivening, or instructive, to every one, not omitting the lowest individual present. This kind, this acceptable, this judicious condescension, soon brought all the better sort of persons of the country to pay their homage at Court; and, in the end, established that fervent attachment of the people of England to his present Majesty, which, by a hundred fold, surpasses the loyalty of any former reign.

The King, in the mean time, with a truly British heart, endeavoured to make himself acquainted with the situations and characters of his subjects. It is true he did not make nocturnal perambulations in various disguises, like the highly celebrated Arabian Calif, Haroun Alraschid; but he rode out, almost daily, through the different suburbs of the Metropolis, and even further, in the dress of a private English gentleman, and attended by a single equerry. This was a practice with the King, whether residing in town or in the country, as long as

his health permitted, and from the most amiable of motives. The distresses he alleviated, the deprivations he removed, are known only to those who have since been able to trace the progress of his little journeys; but they are impressed in characters of deep thankfulness on the hearts of hundreds, and they are entered in a register where such deeds only can find admittance. Yet have these transactions, and the apparently frivolous pretences by which His Majesty obtained intercourse with many poor cottagers, in order to learn their circumstances, been satirized and held up to ridicule, by one of the most profligate and blasphemous *men* of the present age—*(g) Poet* I will not call him, though he sometimes elicited sparks that were of incomparable brightness. To such representations, of such a man, I would oppose one only of the many facts that are in my possession.

The second time that the King went to Weymouth for the benefit of his health, he arrived there early in the day, and, having taken a slight refreshment, walked out alone into the neighbouring country. It appeared to be deserted of its inhabitants; but, in a remote corn-field, the King saw a poor solitary woman gleaning: he passed the fence, and went up to her, asking how she came to be so entirely alone in her employment? and whether she had not a husband or children? The poor woman answered, that her husband and children were gone to Weymouth to see the King; but, as they were in great distress, she thought it a good opportunity to try to gather something for their support. His Majesty was touched with this reply, and, after a short hesitation, said to the gleaner, "Well, as you could not go to Weymouth to see the King, the King has come to see you; and, for fear you should not know him again, he gives you his likeness." He gave the poor woman five guineas, and walked away, shining with celes-

tial enjoyment. This instance of private, unostentatious benevolence, would never have been thus known to the public, but for the overflowing and loquacious gratitude of the woman who was its object.

The Queen's wishes were equally charitable and benevolent; but her opportunities were less frequent, and more liable to deception. As a female, she was compelled to distribute her benefactions, in most cases, by means of agents; and the almoners of Her Majesty's bounty to others frequently took upon themselves the merit of the assistance, because it was always given in strict charge, that the name of the benefactor should not be mentioned. It was a particular object of the Queen's attention to find some decent support for the destitute females of noble British families, that had been brought low by the fluctuations of property. The long continued pensions issued in numerous instances from the Queen's privy purse, and the asylums granted by her interference to very many such persons, will be long remembered with sentiments of the most lively gratitude.

It is easy to conceive that a young, an accomplished, and gracious female on the throne, would be assailed by innumerable presents and applications, from the various classes of persons in this enterprising nation. Some presented their literary compositions, some their proofs of imitative talent, and some their ingenious mechanical devices, hoping to draw reward or sanction from this fountain of patronage. These applications, indeed, soon became so multitudinous, and the expectations of the parties so vast, that it became necessary to lay down a general principle for such cases. It was therefore established, (and such rule was dictated by the soundest wisdom,) that the Queen would graciously receive all presents, but that no return would be made. This judicious resolution

has been acted upon invariably ever since, though it has given apparent ground to many disappointed applicants to charge the kind-hearted Queen with unreasonable parsimony.

But the Queen had already a source of beginning uneasiness, in her domestic relations; to convince her, no doubt, that human felicity is not without powerful abatements. I grieve that I am obliged to record this; but as it led to circumstances of great public importance, even two generations afterwards, I am bound to state it with as much delicacy as the nature of the subject will allow.

The Princess Augusta, the King's sister, had a high notion of her importance as a British Princess; and she felt disposed, and did not hesitate in shewing the disposition, to *look down* on the sister of a German Duke, whose territories were not larger than Yorkshire. She felt, too, and grieved as she felt it, that she was superseded in her rank, and in the King's affections, by the newly-arrived foreigner; and her exasperation was increased by the conviction. But this imperious disdain, this improper jealousy, might have subsided, and even have disappeared in time, under the correction of sedate and deliberate judgment, had not new circumstances occurred to furnish fuel to the burning flame.

When it was known how desirous the King was for a general peace, the opposition writers of the day laboured to malign all those whom they suspected of encouraging this disposition in the Royal mind. They insinuated, that the Queen had used all her influence for that purpose, out of resentment toward the King of Prussia, whose armies had ravaged and laid waste her Brother's dominions: they asserted, that she urged the re-establishment of peace, on any terms, in order to check the rising glories of Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, the successful leader of the British armies in Germany,

because, some centuries before, a Prince of that house had deprived the family of Mecklenburg of the royal dignity. These bold assertions were entirely without foundation; and I am fully authorized to state, that the Queen never did, in any part of His Majesty's reign, interfere with any political act of the government, except on one occasion, which will be detailed in its proper place. If, in the course of that confidential intercourse which must necessarily take place between a married pair, the Queen was asked her opinion on the subject, she would not do otherwise than speak for peace, because she was a true Christian; but I am persuaded she went no farther. Had she been long enough amongst us, at that period, to have entertained completely English sentiments, she would have readily joined with the King, in seeing that we were paying the Monarch of Prussia for fighting his own battles, while he was reviling and traducing us in his conversations and in his writings; she would have assisted her Royal Consort in strengthening his conviction, that the boasted laurels of Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, reared and nourished as they were by the blood and treasures of Britain, produced no fruit but for Germany.

The false assertions of these scurrilous party writers were but too industriously circulated on the Continent; and the House of Brunswick was filled with resentment towards the amiable, the unoffending Queen of this country. It is not difficult, therefore, to calculate the amount of accumulated aversion that would exist, when, a short time afterwards, the Princess Augusta was married to a member of that illustrious House. It became fixed and permanent, and tended in a most effectual manner to produce many of those distressing, but otherwise inexplicable events, which took place during the latter part of the next fifty years.

But the sentiments and feelings of the people did justice to the virtues of the King and Queen; for, as yet, this many-headed, this ever-varying creature, had given no proofs of its fickleness towards them. At the great City festival, in the November following the Coronation, when Their Majesties went to dine with the Lord Mayor, they were greeted and cheered all the way by the most enthusiastic applauses and acclamations; for which, indeed, there was full and sufficient opportunity: since, owing to some want of arrangements to keep obstructions out of the streets, the Royal Procession was detained no less than four hours on its passage from St. James's Palace to Cheapside. The entertainment was truly magnificent and splendid, exhibiting, on the table appropriated to the use of the Royal Family, every thing that taste could invent, or luxury supply, to excite and gratify the eye and the palate. The seven Aldermen, who had been appointed a committee to conduct and manage this great festivity, placed the dishes on the King's table, and remained to act as attendants. As it serves to characterize the usages and mode of providing at that period, I conceive it useful to detail the supplies furnished on this memorable day to the Royal Family.

KING AND QUEEN,
each four Services and Removes.

First Service:

Consisting of tureens, fish, venison, &c.—Nine dishes.

Second Service:

A fine roast; ortolans, quails, knotts, ruffs, peachicks, &c. —Nine dishes.

Third Service:

Consisting of vegetables and made dishes, green peas, green morrells, green truffles, cardoons, &c.—Eleven dishes.

Fourth Service:

Curious ornaments in pastry, jellies, blomonges, cakes, &c.—Nine dishes.

EIGHT OF THE ROYAL FAMILY;

four on the right hand of the King, and four on the left. Each four Services before them, as follows.

First Service:

Venison, turtle, soups, fish of every sort, as, dorys, mullets, turbots, brets, tench, soles, &c.—Seven dishes.

Second Service:

Ortolans, teals, quails, ruffs, snipes, partridges, pheasants, &c.—Seven dishes.

Third Service:

Vegetables, and made dishes, green peas, artichokes, duck's tongues, fat livers, &c.—Nine dishes.

Fourth Service:

Curious ornaments in cakes, both savoury and sweet, jellies, and blomonges, in variety of shapes, figures, and colours.—Nine dishes.

On the table, between each service, was placed near a hundred cold ornamentals, and a grand silver epergne, filled with various kinds of shell-fish of different colours; the whole together, but exclusive of the dessert, amounting to four hundred and fourteen dishes. The expense of the Royal table, at this dinner, exceeded £550; and the whole entertainment appears to have cost little short of £7000.

It was remarked of the Queen, on this occasion, that while she was condescending and most sweetly affable and gracious to all, she had made this an opportunity to shew the rigid decorum she meant to establish in her future Court, by excluding the Ladies of Honour from the Royal table; which had not been done in the preceding reign. Her

Majesty was well aware, that the correctness of lady-like manners was rapidly relaxing in England; one of the pernicious consequences entailed upon it by the licentious court of Charles the Second, who degraded ladies of rank into mistresses, and elevated low-born mistresses into ladies of rank: and the whole civilized world is indebted to her for the incessant endeavours and regulations, by which good manners and virtuous conversation were, at length, sure to be found in a Royal Drawing Room; perhaps the only one of the kind in Europe. The etiquette of proceeding, in every thing that concerned the Royal dignity, was most peremptorily insisted upon, and maintained. I have seen the late Marchioness of Sligo, a lady possessing high notions of long-standing nobility, receive, in her splendid drawing-room, a verbal message from the Queen, by one of the pages, inviting her Ladyship to tea, at Buckingham House, the next evening. Lady S. stood up to receive the page, curtsied before the communication was stated, the same as if the Queen had been present, stood the whole time, and curtsied again when it was finished. "Offer," said the Marchioness in answer, "my grateful duty to Her Majesty, and say that I shall not fail to accept the honour."

These observances, trivial as they may appear to some, conferred important benefits on the country. They set up a sort of standard for good manners; and if they did not go so far as to suppress immorality and vice, they served in a very great degree to check any public display of vulgar and bad feelings in persons of birth or property. As it refers in some degree to this point, and as it may serve for a lesson to those who are suddenly brought in contact with a Court, I cannot omit a circumstance which took place when I was present, though it be comparatively but of recent occurrence. Being called to attend the Queen one

for public speaking, he turned his thoughts towards parliamentary interest, for advancing his fortune, which was at that time so small as not to afford him the degree of qualification necessary for a seat in the House of Commons; but he soon met with a friend, to assist and help him over this difficulty. An elderly lady, who had some cause of unconquerable aversion to Sir Robert Walpole and his measures, settled upon Mr. Pitt a sufficient sum to make him eligible, on condition that he should steadily, strenuously, and invariably, oppose that minister. I have no hesitation in saying again, that such an engagement is not consistent with strict integrity: invariable, premeditated opposition, is as dishonest as invariable support. The very worst and weakest men may be right sometimes; and the best and wisest men in the world may be sometimes wrong.

Mr. Pitt was handsome in person, fluent in speech, and possessed an imposing, dignified manner of deportment, that carried great sway with those who even saw, without hearing, him. I have been told, by a nobleman who used to attend the House of Peers, after Mr. Pitt had a seat there as Earl of Chatham, that to see him rise slowly, as he did, and look round the House before he spoke, was almost sufficient to convince his expecting auditors of the truth of what he was going to say.

An anecdote has been put into my hands relating to this distinguished character, which, as it serves to shew the style of parliamentary attack and defence at that period, I conceive will be entertaining. It will serve as a contrast to the more methodical eloquence of later times.

Sir Robert Walpole had been much pressed and harassed, once in a committee, by the vehemence of the young orator, and took occasion, in his reply, to introduce this sarcastic allusion: "Sir, my

father was a celebrated sportsman, and had the best pack of hounds in England; but it was owing to a certain regulation he had in training them: for, when he found a young dog going, continually, upon a wrong scent, he had him whipped most severely. I recommend this to the consideration of the young Gentleman." Mr. Pitt, in the further progress of the debate, found an opportunity to reargue the subject, with his usual ability; and, as if unwilling to be behind in sarcasm, concluded thus: "I beg leave, Sir, to state, that my father also was a sportsman, and had a fine pack of hounds, which he attributed to one particular usage. When he found an old dog perpetually going on a wrong scent, he immediately ordered him to be hanged; well knowing that he would never be any better. I recommend this to the attention of the Right Honourable Gentleman." At this period there were none but private records of parliamentary proceedings and debates.

Mr. Pitt, as a minister, was prompt and decisive, enlarged in his views, sparing no expense for secret intelligence, and urging all those about him to the same activity which he practised himself. Of this, one instance out of many will suffice. Having made up his mind to a certain attack on one of the French settlements, he sent to the then Master-General of the Ordnance, desiring that a large battering train, with all its appendages, the whole being distinctly specified, might be ready by the following Thursday. The Noble Lord sent his confidential Secretary in great haste, to answer, that he was surprised at the requisition; that the thing was impossible." "Tell him," said Mr. Pitt, "if all is not ready at the time, I will impeach him." Means were found by the Master-General to get every thing prepared in time: the expedition sailed, and was completely successful.

But with these great powers for government, this

Minister had a consciousness of superior talent that made him peremptory and ungracious: so that while his colleagues submitted to him, they disliked him, and sullenly took their share of the popularity which resulted from the skill of his combinations. Mr. Pitt had no influence by high family connections, or by imputed wealth, to counterbalance the increasing dislike of his associates. He and his partial colleague, Lord Temple, resigned their respective situations in the administration of the Government, on the 5th of September, 1761.

Mr. Pitt knew the King's wish for peace, and felt his influence in the Cabinet to be, consequently, declining; for there were many about the Throne and the Government, who, acting from motives of cringing subserviency, rather than from integrity of principle, always clung to the indications of Royal opinion. This resignation, which was expected, and, as far as the King was concerned, not undesired, was accelerated by the triumphant War Minister finding himself outvoted in Council. The Country was already at war with France, as well as engaged in an expensive subsidiary and auxiliary war in Germany; and Mr. Pitt, at this time, vehemently urged an immediate declaration of war against Spain. He knew that Spain had just concluded an offensive alliance with France, which was to be published as soon as the South American treasure was safely arrived: and, from his ability in procuring secret intelligence, he had already obtained a copy of the treaty made to that effect. After urging various arguments to persuade the Cabinet to his views, and stating his expectations of hostilities on the part of Spain before long, without any successful effect, he said, "I have a copy of this treaty between France and Spain now in my pocket." After hesitating for some time, several members of the Council declared, that if he would shew the treaty, they would yield to his

advice. "No," said the indignant Statesman, with one of his overpowering looks, "I will not betray the man that has confided in my secrecy and honour." The question of war was immediately put to the vote, and decided in the negative, by every voice but those of Mr. Pitt and Lord Temple; who thought it right, in consequence, to retire from their official situations. Subsequent events proved the correctness of the retiring Minister's anticipations with regard to the views and intentions of the Spanish Court; and much praise was, therefore, bestowed on his vigilance and foresight: but the decision of the Cabinet Council on this point, must, and will, always be examined on the great principle, whether a state of peace, to any nation, is not better than a state of extended foreign warfare?

But the correctness and integrity of the King's mind and judgment were evinced on this as on every other occasion. While he differed most decidedly from Mr. Pitt, as to the measures most conducive to the health and well-being of the Country, he felt and admired the superiority of his talents. As an expression, therefore, of this feeling, he caused a pension of three thousand pounds a year, for his life, to be settled on the Right Honourable Gentleman. Mr. Pitt regarded this manifestation of Royal favour as it was intended, a reasonable tribute to his great abilities; though the party-writers of the day wished to insinuate, that it was an insidious contrivance, on the part of the Crown, to detract from the popularity which the Ex-Minister carried out of office with him. Mr. Pitt felt it his duty to take upon himself the defence of the King on this point, which he did in a Letter to a certain Alderman in the City, known to be one of his devoted admirers. The Letter was immediately printed, and was soon in circulation over the Kingdom. The following is a copy:

A Letter from a Right Honourable Person, to ——— in the City.

" DEAR SIR,

" FINDING, to my great surprise, that the cause and manner of my resigning the seals, is grossly misrepresented in the City, as well as that the most gracious and spontaneous marks of His Majesty's approbation of my services, which marks followed my resignation, have been infamously traduced as a bargain for my forsaking the Public, I am under a necessity of declaring the truth of both these facts, in a manner which I am sure no Gentleman will contradict. A difference of opinion with regard to measures to be taken against Spain, of the highest importance to the honour of the Crown, and to the most essential national interests, (and this founded on what Spain had already done, not on what that Court may further intend to do,) was the cause of my resigning the seals. Lord Temple and I submitted in writing, and signed by us, our most humble sentiments to His Majesty; which being over-ruled by the united opinion of all the rest of the King's servants, I resigned the seals on Monday the 5th of this month, in order not to remain responsible for measures, which I was no longer allowed to guide. Most gracious public marks of His Majesty's approbation of my services followed my resignation. They are unmerited and unsolicited, and I shall ever be proud to have received them from the best of Sovereigns.

" I will now only add, my dear Sir, that I have explained these matters only for the honour of truth, not in any view to court return of confidence from any man, who, with a credulity as weak as it is injurious, has thought fit hastily to withdraw his good opinion from one who has served his Country with fidelity and success, and who justly reveres the upright and candid judgment of it, little solicitous about the censures of the capricious and the ungenerous. Accept my sincerest acknowledgments for all your kind friendship, and believe me ever, with truth and esteem,

" My dear Sir,

" Your faithful Friend," &c.

George the Third, the most amiable of British Monarchs, came to the throne encumbered with a foreign war, as a heir to large estates comes into

possession, and finds numerous heavy mortgages hanging over him. But the King had the further distress of finding this war, which he disapproved, had been rendered popular by the able, and therefore successful, management of Mr. Pitt, who appeared to love war. The great body of London merchants applauded and encouraged the war; because our fleets and cruisers stripped, or annihilated, the commerce of other nations; thus throwing the profits of the trade of the whole world into their coffers: and they thought nothing of the great debt to be laid on posterity by the exertions that made *them* rich. The people at large were even dazzled into a love of war by the splendour of repeated victories, captures, and triumphs. But the King looked at these achievements through the medium of the blood of his subjects, which had been poured out in accomplishing them, and their lustre was tarnished to his contemplation. The King loved peace, as I have stated before, because he was a Christian; he loved peace, because he had a paternal regard for his people; and he was resolved to establish peace, as soon as possible, at any expense but that of national honour. For this purpose he called in the advice and assistance of Lord Bute, a nobleman of great learning, talents, and virtue, who had been principally instrumental in forming the King's mind, while yet a youth, to every thing that is good in religion, morals, and government; to every thing that was excellent in science, literature, and the arts.—But it is now time to return to the interesting subject of this Memoir.

On the fifth of November, after the Royal Nuptials, the King, in one part of his speech to Parliament, thus addressed the Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

"I DARE say your affectionate regard for me and the Queen, makes you go before me in what I am next to men-

tion;—the making an adequate and honourable provision for her support, in case she should survive me. This is what not only her royal dignity, but her own merit, calls for; and I earnestly recommend it to your consideration."

In consequence, on the nineteenth of the same month, the House passed two resolutions; one, That a provision be made for the Queen, in case she should survive His Majesty, of 100,000l. per annum, during her life, to support her royal dignity, together with His Majesty's Palace of Somerset House,*(h)* and the Lodge and lands at Richmond Old Park; another, appointing the funds for paying the annuity; and a third, for bringing in a bill to enact the whole. The bill was accordingly brought in, and presented by Lord Barrington. It passed both Houses unanimously, and with all the despatch permitted by the regulations of Parliament; and being ready, on the first of December, for receiving the royal assent, His Majesty came next day to the House of Peers, though this was the only bill then ready for such a sanction. The Commons being sent for, as usual, the Speaker, upon presenting this bill, addressed the King thus:

"MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

"IT has been the first care of your faithful Commons, to take into their consideration what Your Majesty most affectionately recommended to them from the Throne, namely, the enabling Your Majesty to make that provision for the Queen, in case she should survive you, to which her royal dignity, and her own merit, give her the justest claim.

"On such an occasion, I should ill discharge the trust, which has lately been reposed in me by the Commons, and most graciously confirmed by Your Majesty, if I omitted to assure you, that they feel the warmest sentiments of gratitude to Your Majesty, who has made their happiness, and that of their posterity, your principal object. Of this Your Majesty has given abundant proof, by your Royal Nuptials with a Princess, whose illustrious ancestors were early assertors of the civil and religious liberties of mankind, and, in

consequence, closely attached to Your Majesty's family; a Princess, whom the most distinguished virtues and amiable endowments pointed out to Your Majesty's choice, and made the partner of the brightest Crown in Europe.

"I cannot but esteem it a very singular honour and happiness to myself, that the first bill, which, by command of the Commons, I present to Your Majesty, is a bill, in which they have, with the greatest zeal and unanimity, endeavoured to testify their duty to Your Majesty and your Royal Consort; and that it is not less acceptable to Your Majesty, than to your Commons, and to all whom they represent.

"But, Sire, though they have passed it with the utmost expedition that their forms allow, yet it is matter of real satisfaction to them, that they can entertain the most pleasing and well-founded hopes, that it will be a long course of years before it can have any effect. And the domestic happiness of the Queen is so inseparably connected with the public interests of your People, that, on behalf of Her Majesty, as well as of every subject of your Realm, your faithful Commons will never cease to implore the Almighty, that He will be pleased to distinguish this Nation by his divine protection, in prolonging Your Majesty's happy reign beyond an ordinary date; and that, if ever the provisions of this bill should become effectual, it may be lamented only by their posterity:

"The bill, Sire, which I have in my hand, is entitled, 'An Act for enabling His Majesty to support the Royal Dignity of the Queen, in case she shall survive His Majesty;' to which your Commons, with all humility, entreat Your Majesty's consent."

This address of the Speaker concurred so exactly with the general feeling, that, on his return to the House, a motion was unanimously carried that he should be requested to print it.

In eleven months after the Queen was married, an event took place which filled the Nation with unfeigned joy: it was the birth of a Son and Heir to the Throne of these great Kingdoms. Let any man consider what would be the feelings of his own mind, after being indissolubly united to a lovely wife, on receiving a living proof that a blessing had waited on their nuptials: let any one who feels inte-

rested in perpetuating honours and titles, think of what would be his exultation on finding all doubts removed; let every one consider what would be his triumph as an Englishman, after being governed by successive foreigners, to find that he had not only one accomplished and virtuous native Prince on the Throne, but that this Prince had now a successor, born in the bosom of the land, and likely to be brought up in a way that would continue the present, and bring down future, blessings on the country; whoever can imagine a combination of all these feelings together, may form an idea of the national rejoicing on this interesting occurrence.

On the morning of the 12th of August, 1762, at Seven o'clock, the Queen was safely delivered of a Prince; the Princess Dowager of Wales, several Members of the Privy Council, and all the Ladies of the Bedchamber, being present. On this great occasion, unquestionable proofs were perceived of that excellent constitution, which has given a numerous, healthful, and beautiful Royal Family, to the Nation; and which has enabled Her Majesty to pass through a very long course of years with uninterrupted health and vigour.

This important event was immediately made known to the Town by the firing of the Tower guns; and the Privy Council being assembled as soon as possible to receive the report of its members who had been present on the occasion, it was ordered that a Form of Thanksgiving, for the Queen's safe delivery of a Prince, should be drawn up by the Archbishop of Canterbury, to be used on the following Sunday, or the Sunday after, according to the time of receiving it. Her Majesty, the next day, was reported to be well beyond all expectation, and the young Prince to be in perfect health.

The University of Oxford immediately addressed the King, on this happy event, in the following form:

" MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

" WE Your Majesty's most faithful and loyal subjects, the Chancellor, Masters, and Scholars, of your University of Oxford, humbly beg leave to felicitate Your Majesty on the safe delivery of the Queen, and the happy Birth of a Prince, Heir apparent to the Imperial Crown of these Realms; an event which hath hitherto been the object of our most ardent wishes, and affords us, at present, a most desirable occasion of unfeigned congratulation.

" The interests of Prince and People are so intimately and inseparably connected with each other, that every increase of the Sovereign's public or private felicity must necessarily bring along with it an accession of happiness and prosperity to the subject. Permit us then, dread Sire, to indulge ourselves in the pleasing prospect of a numerous royal progeny; and that the many and great blessings that we owe, next under God, to Your Majesty's most auspicious Government, will, by the protection of Providence, over a long race of illustrious Princes to come, be transmitted down secure to the remotest period of time."

The birth of this, the King's first Son, was marked by a very particular circumstance. Some months before, two of our frigates, on returning from a perilous voyage, had captured, off Cape St. Vincent, the rich Spanish ship the Hermione, bound with treasure from Acapulco to Manilla and Cadiz. They brought their prize safely to England; and the treasure being landed at Portsmouth, was forwarded to the Bank of England in waggons. Just as the Queen was put safely into bed, the first of these waggons entered St. James's-street in their progress; on which His Majesty, and the Nobility that were in the Palace, went to the windows over the gate to see them; and both King and People joined in most heartfelt and joyful acclamations on this double occasion of national rejoicing. The procession then went forwards; and it is too memorable an instance of the proud triumphs of Britain not to be particularly mentioned, even in such a work as this. A company of light-horse went first,

with kettle-drums, French horns, trumpets, and other music; then a covered waggon, decorated with an English jack, and a Spanish flag underneath, hanging behind; two more covered waggons followed, and seven uncovered waggons, and these were followed by another waggon, displaying an English flag and a Spanish flag, as before; next came seven waggons covered; and, lastly, one uncovered, decorated with flags as before: in all twenty waggons, followed by an officer on horseback, bearing an English ensign, and followed by another officer, with a drawn cutlass. The escort to each waggon consisted of marines with their bayonets fixed. The acclamations and rejoicings of the people were unbounded: to see the rich gold and silver from the boasted mines of Peru and Mexico, brought by waggon loads into the Metropolis of England, through the skill and irresistible valour of British sailors, was a cause of excitement to national exultation that no lover of his Country could withstand; and when the chests came to be examined, the treasure was found to be much greater than had been at first supposed. The property belonging to the Spanish Government found on board this vessel, was estimated at 2,276,716l.; and the property of private adventurers at 160,000l.

The House of Peers thus congratulated the King, on the Birth of his first Son, in a paragraph of one of their Addresses:

"Permit us, Sire, to take this earliest opportunity to intreat Your Majesty to accept our sincere and most fervent congratulations, on the Birth of an Heir Apparent to your Crown, which adds to Your Majesty's domestic happiness, and endears your Royal Consort to the People of these Realms; and promises, that, under a Prince formed to the arts of government under Your Majesty's royal example, the civil and religious liberties, the glory, the commerce, and the power, of Great Britain, will be transmitted to posterity."

The Address of the House of Commons on the

occasion was more concise than even that of the Lords, and presented the same sentiments; I therefore pass it over, to give the interesting Address of the Archbishop, Bishops, and Clergy of the Province of Canterbury, in Convocation assembled, presented Dec. 4th, 1762.

" MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

" WE Your Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the Archbishop, Bishops, and Clergy of the Province of Canterbury, in Convocation assembled, beg leave to take the first occasion of jointly congratulating Your Majesty on the blessing, for which we have separately offered up our fervent thanksgivings to God, of his vouchsafing, and that so early, to You and your excellent Consort the Queen, a Son to inherit the Crown of these Realms.

" We feel a sensible pleasure from the increase of Your Majesty's domestic felicity, in the addition of paternal to conjugal tenderness: but our views extend much further; and, as we owe to Your august House the preservation of every thing dear to us as men or Christians; and have found each of Your illustrious Ancestors faithful guardians of those distinguished advantages which we enjoy to the height under Your Majesty's gracious Government; so we trust that Providence hath designed it as a pledge of the perpetuity of our happiness, in giving us a Prince descended from such Progenitors: For we know that his hereditary good dispositions will be solicitously strengthened and improved by the daily instructions and example of his Parents, who will complete their merit to these Nations, by forming his youthful mind to the love of religion, of liberty, of our civil and ecclesiastical condition; to a judicious zeal for the prosperity of Great Britain, and a sincere benevolence to mankind in general.

" May these pleasing labours be successful to the highest degree. May the Royal Infant grow up in health and strength, become the joy and boast of the Public by every valuable attainment; delight Your Majesties by the most affectionate duty and gratitude, through an uncommon length of days, mercifully granted you; and, born at the dawning of peace, may he see, all his life, the people of this land reaping the beneficent fruits of it to the utmost.

" It shall be our conscientious care to remind our fellow-subjects of the inestimable privileges which they possess, and the glorious expectations which they may justly entertain for

"Lo, children, and the fruits of the womb, are an heritage and gift that cometh of the Lord.

"Like as the arrows in the hand of a giant, even so are the young children.

"Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them. He shall not be ashamed when he speaketh with his enemies in the gate.

"Lo, thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord."

The few persons who had an opportunity of observing minutely on this occasion, were struck with His Majesty's emotions. Ever fervent in his piety, he seemed also to feel his new situation; and this, added to the effect of the music, an art of which the King was always passionately fond, rendered the combination almost overpowering. A few days after this event, so gratifying to the feelings of a husband, His Majesty had the still greater pleasure, as a King, of announcing to his People that the Sovereign of France wished to treat for a peace with this Country, and had sent a minister to England for that purpose. What a degree of happiness for such a man!

When the Queen was so far recovered as to go forth from her confinement, her first visit was made to the House of God, where she devoutly poured out her gratitude to Him who had preserved and blessed her so conspicuously. The following Anthem was performed in the course of the service, set to most exquisite music by the celebrated Dr. Boyce.

"O GIVE thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious; because his mercy endureth for ever.

"Let Israel now confess that he is gracious; and that his mercy endureth for ever.

"The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him; yea, all such as call upon him faithfully.

"My heart was disquieted within me; and the fear of death was fallen upon me.

"But in my trouble I called upon the Lord; and he delivered me out of my distress.

"Turn again then unto thy rest; O my soul, for the Lord hath rewarded thee.

"O praise the Lord with me; and let us magnify his name together.

"Behold, O God, our Defender; and look upon the face of thine Anointed.

"O prepare thy loving mercy and faithfulness; that they may preserve him.

"Let his seed endure for ever; and his throne as the days of Heaven.

"So will we always sing praises unto thy name. Amen. Hallelujah."

The first public act of the Queen, after her recovery, was to send a donation of a Hundred Pounds to the Asylum for Female Orphans.

We shall soon, now, have to contemplate this royal and truly amiable Lady, in the new and delightful character of a mother; but it will be well first to look at the new and earnestly desired state in which the King was about to find himself as the Governor of a great People. He had begun his reign in war, he had triumphed over all his enemies; the name of Britain shone like a bright constellation in the temple of Fame, and she had now the offer from her prostrate adversaries to twine the olive branch of reconciliation in with the glittering laurels of victory that encircled her head: such an offer was not likely to be rejected. But the King had domestic motives and views in wishing for peace, that do credit to the soundness of his judgment, as well as to his patriotism. He was extensively read in the history of the Constitution and Laws of the Country; he knew that for many centuries the Sovereign had been thwarted, or governed, by the clergy or the barons; he viewed with pleasure the good that seemed to dawn on society by the permission of Henry the Seventh for the nobles to alienate lands in favour of the commonalty; and he felt that in his own time, the King was little more than a state puppet, managed by associations

of aristocratical power that had prevailed during the four preceding reigns. Thus informed, thus impressed, George the Third desired a pacific state for his people, even on considerations of policy, though he had also higher motives, as I have intimated before.

In a time of peace, numbers of additional hands are employed in the labours of agriculture, manufactures are extended, inventions for their improvement are encouraged, and foreign commerce increases, not only by the increasing stock and variety of native commodities, but by the accumulation of internal capital. Thus the people become wealthy, they feel their importance, and become, as the Constitution evidently requires they should be, a countervailing power in the state.

To the fulfilment of this prospect the King now anxiously looked forwards, as to the means of delivering himself from the thraldom of those powerful families, who, by their cabals and connections, alternately usurped the power to rule the State. To favour these views, he well knew that nothing would more conduce than to increase the pure administration of justice in the Country, and to give to the subject, by degrees, as much practical liberty as might be found consistent with just subordination, and reasonable tranquillity. In execution of so wise and beneficent a plan, one of the first acts of His Majesty's reign was to appoint the several Judges for life, that their functions might not cease with the death of the Sovereign; and a subsequent Act of Parliament made them entirely independent of the Crown, and removeable only by impeachment. To assist him in accomplishing this great purpose of his heart, the King, as I have intimated already, relied on the assistance of the Earl of Bute; a nobleman of profound research, extensive learning, fine taste, and of unimpeachable uprightness. I feel it my duty to dilate somewhat upon this point, as a

matter of justice, both to the King and to Lord Bute; because there never was a public character in this Country more foully and scurrilously abused, or more grossly misrepresented, by the party writers of the day, who thought that in attacking his Lordship they were also wounding his Master, whom they dared not more openly assail. While he was looked on as the adviser of the King, with a view to general peace in Europe, he was abused by those only who wished for war; but when he was made Secretary of State, there rose up against him innumerable bands of virulent and inveterate opposers. As his talents and his virtues, as well as his accomplishments, were unimpeachable, the first charge that was brought against him was, his being a man of no family: but if they had looked into the history of the kingdom that gave him birth, they would have found one of his ancestors, the Stuart of Bute, near six hundred years before, leading the van of the Royal Scotch army, at the battle of Falkirk, against our invincible Edward the First; where he bravely fell, amidst the carnage of ten thousand of his relations and followers. But finding this objection to Lord Bute had no foundation, they hit upon another, which became very popular, that he was a *Scotchman;* and a certain Noble Lord, who had retired with Mr. Pitt, was in the habit of saying, that to be Secretary of State was too great an honour for any one not born in England: as if talent or integrity belonged to soil, and not to cultivation. May not a Yorkshire man be able to serve his Prince as well as a Middlesex man? and may not a Welshman or a Scotchman serve him as well as either? Was Titus, the son of Vespasian, less beloved by the Romans because neither he nor his father was born in Italy? Was Trajan the worse Emperor for being a Spaniard? Did the Roman people find any benefit in this, or any consolation under their sufferings, that Tiberius, and his

minister Sejanus, were born in Rome? The fact is, that Lord Bute, strong in the integrity of his intentions, and in the approbation of his Sovereign, was unbending and inflexible in what he thought right to do: he could not descend to those flatteries, those intrigues, those barterings and purchases, to which other ministers constantly had recourse. Besides, he was not allied to any of those great families which had been so long accustomed to rule the State, and to overrule the King. When, therefore, he received the command to form a new Administration, the necessary co-operation was so sternly and rigidly refused to him, that his combination was feeble, and not qualified by its internal powers to last long: but when to this is added, the indefatigable and powerful opposition of the members who had lately gone out of power, and wished, once more, to get in, and the inveterate antipathy of those who thought they had lost their birthright when the Crown and the Ministers appeared to be independent of them, a premature dissolution could not but be anticipated at no very distant period.

Very shortly, however, after peace had been established, and long before his anxious opponents expected it, Lord Bute resigned his appointments. His reasons for this conduct were stated at the time by one who appears to have written under his authority; and they seem perfectly consistent with his character and his principles:—"His resignation "is in consequence of a resolution early taken, and "invariably adhered to, by this extraordinary per-"son; who seeing this nation involved in a con-"suming war, which, for various reasons, no "Minister but himself would put an end to, thought "himself called upon, not only as the friend of his "Sovereign, but as the friend of his Country, to "undertake the difficult and dangerous task of "making peace: this he happily accomplished, "and made a peace which speaks for itself. In

"the prosecution of this great work, his life has "been often threatened, and sometimes in danger, "from an exasperated multitude; his character "has been attacked with a virulence till now "unknown; his relations, his friends, and even "the place of his nativity, have been reviled; and "every possible method taken to discredit him "with the Public, and to ruin him with his Sove- "reign. This storm he endured, and persevered "with inconceivable constancy, till the peace was "ratified and approved by Parliament, and the "business of the session brought to a conclusion: "then he resigned, leaving the new Ministry sup- "ported by a great majority in both Houses; as "he had too much honour to aim at obstructing "their proceedings. This opinion, of his having "early taken a resolution to retire, is confirmed by "the mildness of his administration, and his total "neglect of the libels against him. He has, "accordingly, retired without place or pension, "disdaining to touch those tempting spoils that "lay at his feet."

It was insinuated, however, by some writers at the time, more daring than others, that Lord Bute had received a large sum of money from France for consenting to a peace, thought to be too favourable to that country; and, as proofs of it, reference was made to the magnificent buildings he was carrying on in the country and in Berkeley-square. But this charge was immediately refuted by the circumstances, that he had received with his wife £25,000 a year, with £450,000 in the funds, and was yet obliged to borrow £90,000 to complete his undertakings.

But, to return to a more interesting subject, a subject calculated to interest and engage every feeling heart; I must speak of the Queen. She had all the lively and fond affections of a young and

amiable Mother; and regretted, most deeply, the customs, the duties of Royalty, which prevented her supplying to her infant the nutriment to which it had a claim by birth-right, and for which she was amply qualified. To perform this important duty by proxy, had long been a prevalent custom on the Continent: but Her Majesty had either thought differently, upon principle, or she had caught the tenderness of maternal feeling, on her landing in this Country; and it burst forth as soon as an object calculated to excite it was put into her arms.—She grieved that she could not be to her son all that a mother should be; but she submitted, and endeavoured to make amends by a most scrupulous attention to other points, in watching over the young Prince.

I must be allowed to take this opportunity of addressing my fair and amiable Countrywomen, on the sacred obligation they are under, to sustain and strengthen the children they bring into the world, with the all-sufficient nutriment of their own bosoms. Sometimes, it is true, this may not be practicable; constitutional, or other impediments, may tend to make it so: but where there is not such impediment, the responsibility of neglect becomes most serious and weighty. Is there any one so devoted to the vain and fleeting pleasures of dissipation, as to neglect the gratifying duty of paying back to society, in the only way that is allowed her, the tender cares she received from her affectionate mother? Is there any one so enchanted by the public admiration of her beauty, as to prefer it to the thankful smiles of a lovely infant that clings close to her breast? I am persuaded there are but very few such in this land of domestic virtues. English women love their duties, and they can therefore fully appreciate the sacrifice made, upon this and similar occasions, by the Queen.

It is necessary to state in this place, a custom which had long prevailed in the Royal Family of England, of presenting the Queen with a set of jewels immediately on her recovery, after bearing a child. As this circumstance occurred so often to Her Majesty, it is easy to conceive that there would be an accumulation of jewels that might have made any other person rich. But the Queen, from the very first of her coming amongst us, distributed, with a most liberal hand, though, as I have stated before, by means of agents; so that even the persons benefited seldom knew whence the bounty flowed. By these disbursements, she was frequently so straitened, as even to be without money before her quarter's appointment became due. I would illustrate this point, by a circumstance communicated to me by unquestionable authority:

Early in the Queen's life, there was a young, but eloquent and pious, Clergyman in the neighbourhood of Windsor, who was seized with so rapid a decline, that his medical advisers declared nothing could save his life but going to the south of France. The poverty of his circumstances rendered this impracticable, and his death was looked to as a certain event; for it had been ascertained that the journey would not cost less than £300. This case was stated to the Queen by Lady ——— (whose name I am not at liberty to give,) and Her Majesty listened to it with great attention. She made no observation at the time; but she appeared pensive in the evening, when undressing, and, as if without knowing it, exclaimed, "This poor man must go!" This produced a respectful inquiry from the confidential attendant, and a statement of the case from the Queen. "My good Queen," said the attendant, "you can do nothing for him: you have no money at present; and your quarter will not be due for three weeks to come." "Then," said Her

Majesty, in a tone which she ever assumed when she wished to be obeyed, "the poor man will die. Take him one of the diamonds out of my stomacher." Whether or not this jewel was the means of accomplishing the benevolent intention, I know not; but the sick Clergyman went abroad, recovered, and lived long after his return to be a faithful leader of his parishioners. These are the bright jewels that make a Crown doubly splendid: the diamond taken from the stomacher was but representative of a more valuable treasure placed near it.

The Queen's custom was to play with her little children, and to toss them about, with all the alacrity and liveliness of youth; and the King, as often as possible, joined in this truly parental pastime. She was an early riser, and saw her children the first thing every morning, if they were within reach: and it was the custom of both Parents, whenever practicable, to see their children in bed at night.

As the inhabitants of the nursery increased year after year, by a regular addition, the Queen found it necessary to adopt a system of discipline and tuition, which, with the subsequent assistance of Lady Charlotte Finch, she was enabled to carry to a successful issue. Nothing was promised or threatened to the children but it was punctually given, or faithfully executed; their hours of control were strictly observed; and Her Majesty adopted a mode of reproof in their hours of play, that superseded the necessity of corporal punishment. There was a family of young children in the Palace, whose minds and manners had been formed by the most careful and exemplary instruction. These were frequently brought in contact with the young Princes and Princesses, during their periods of relaxation, and won their regards entirely. At other times, when admonition was

necessary, Mrs. Boscawen's children were always successfully referred to.

The King's tender fondness for young children was always most strikingly manifested; and it must be regarded as indicating a correct, amiable, and pious mind: "Suffer little children to come unto me," was ever upon his lips, because it was in his heart. An instance of this affectionate tenderness is within my own knowledge. The Baroness Howe, the interesting widow of the Hon. Mr. P. Curzon, took her little boy, then in petticoats, to see the King and Queen, who always shewed particular regard to the family of Howe. His Majesty took the child on his knee, trying to amuse him in various ways, till at length, perhaps from being unused to that stillness which was imposed by the Royal presence, he fell fast asleep: The Baroness immediately prepared to remove the child; but the King would not allow it, and held him on his lap and in his arms for nearly three hours, till the nap was finished.—To such a man, the numerous and lovely family with which he was favoured, must have been a source of indescribable happiness and delight.

In little more than eleven months after the birth of the Prince of Wales, the Queen gave to the gratified country another blooming son. This event took place at Ten o'clock in the morning of July 16th, 1763, and was announced to the public by the firing of cannon; the royal babe being then unconscious of such sounds, and little knowing that, many years afterwards, he should contribute, by the wisdom of his regulations, and by his assiduity in business, to render the British army, and the British artillery, superior to every other in the world.

The King's attentions to the Invalid during her confinement, were of the most tender and affectionate kind. She had lately been, if possible, more

than ever endeared to his heart, by the manner in which she had commemorated his last Birth-day, though but a little more than a month before the time of her lying-in. It marks the character of the Queen so clearly, that I cannot omit the account of this tribute of conjugal regard.

On the morning of the 4th of June, when the Royal Pair were going from the Queen's Palace to St. James's, Her Majesty proposed that they should remain there till the 6th; which was immediately assented to by the polite and tender Husband. As soon as the Queen had left her house, a great number of workmen, artificers and artists, were set to work, and continued, with indefatigable assiduity, for the whole intervening time, till the 6th, in the afternoon, when their task was completed; and displayed some of the finest and most magnificent pieces of transparent painting that the artists of that time were able to produce. The Queen, in order to engage His Majesty's attention, and to detain him as long as possible at St. James's, desired several Ladies to appear at Court that day in the masquerade dresses, in which they were about to go to the splendid ball the Duke of Richmond proposed to give in the evening. The King thus amused, and not aware of the intention, did not go to the Queen's House till near Ten o'clock; when, on the window-shutters on that side being suddenly thrown back, he was surprised and delighted by the brilliant exhibition of a superb Temple and Bridge standing in the garden, and illuminated with more than four thousand glass lamps, judiciously distributed through the beautiful scenery of the grounds.

The Painting in front of the Temple represented the King, as if giving peace to all the quarters of the earth; and near him were the trophies obtained by the numerous conquests of Britain. Under his feet were a group of figures, to personify Envy,

Malice, Detraction, and other demons, tumbling headlong from his presence, like the fallen angels in Milton's Paradise Lost. In the Temple appeared a grand Orchestra, in which were stationed a numerous and well-selected band of the most eminent musical performers.

What the King must have felt on receiving, and the Queen in presenting, such a testimony of love and respect, cannot be described, and can even be imagined but by a few whose minds are highly elevated; but such as were present, and now living, speak of His Majesty as being in transports of gratitude and affection. Most of the Royal Family were witnesses of this scene; and, after walking about for some time, the whole party sat down to a cold supper, of more than a hundred dishes, which was followed by an illuminated dessert.

The Ode composed for His Majesty's Birth-day, by the Poet Laureat, and finely set to music by Dr. Boyce, who presided in the Orchestra, was then performed, to the still further gratification of the King; whose love of music, as well as his knowledge of it as a science, was very great.

ODE.

COMMON Births, like common things,
  Pass unheeded, or unknown:
Time but spreads, or waves his wings;
  The phantom swells, the phantom's gone!
Born for millions, Monarchs rise
  Heirs of infamy, or fame.
When the virtuous, brave, or wise,
  Demand our praise, with loud acclaim,
We twine the festive wreath, the shrines adorn;
'Tis not our King's alone, 'tis Britain's natal morn.

Bright examples plac'd on high,
  Shine with more distinguish'd blaze;
Thither nations turn their eye,
  And grow virtuous as they gaze.

Thoughtless ease, and sportive leisure,
Dwell in life's contracted sphere;
Public is the Monarch's pleasure,
Public is the Monarch's care:
If Titus smiles, th' observant world is gay;
If Titus frowns, or sighs, we sigh and lose a day!

Around their couch, around their board,
A thousand ears attentive wait,
A thousand busy tongues record
The smallest whispers of the great.
Happy those whom truth sincere,
And conscious virtue, join to guide!
Can they have a foe to fear?
Can they have a thought to hide?
Nobly they soar above th' admiring throng,
Superior to the pow'r, the will of acting wrong.

Such may Britain find her Kings!—
Such the muse of rapid wings
Wafts to some sublimer sphere:
Gods and heroes mingle there,
Fame's eternal accents breathe,
Black Cocytus howls beneath;
Ev'n Malice learns to blush, and hides her stings.
— O such may Britain ever find her Kings!

The following Song was also performed on this occasion, though it had been prepared for Her Majesty's preceding Birth-day:

To Peace and Love, in Courts but seldom seen,
This smiling day has sacred been:
And may they here united reign,
While winter chills, or summer warms the plain!

May She, whose duty is her joy,
Still, still on tasks of love her hours employ,
To cheer her King, to charm her Friend:
On His, and Britain's hope, with pleasure tend!

That lovely, that unfolding Rose,
With care to watch, and cherish, as he grows;
While, with a Mother's soft surprise,
She sees, in Him renew'd, his Parent rise!

The whole party separated at Twelve o'clock, being the latest hour the King and Queen ever allowed themselves on such occasions; though in these times such is the hour when fashionable parties are little more than begun.

On the 29th of November following the second happy delivery of Her Majesty of a son, the King announced to his Parliament the intended marriage of his eldest sister, Princess Augusta, to the Hereditary Prince of Brunswick. Both Houses were unanimous in voting, on this occasion, the sum of £80,000, for a dowry to the Princess, and the Country at large seemed to receive the announcement with great satisfaction; for the feverish enthusiasm towards wars and warriors, which had been excited by our foreign, unparalleled successes, had not yet subsided into rational judgment; and there was also a spirit of national attachment to the House of Brunswick, which contributed to render the projected union popular. For reasons which I have stated already, I shall be more circumstantial here than I would otherwise have wished to be. The character of Princess Augusta I have intimated before: that of the intended Bridegroom deserves conspicuous mention. He was a soldier; and his virtues are, therefore, to be found in the camp and in the field, where he had not discredited the high repute of his ancestors. Some of his principal exploits are thus epitomised and recorded by a contemporary writer; and, for so young a man, they certainly appear most brilliant.

When the Hanoverians resumed their arms, in consequence of the infraction, on the part of the French, of the Convention of Closter Seven, Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, brother to the reigning Duke of that title, was appointed Commander in Chief of the armies of the King of Great Britain. With this army the Hereditary Prince, then in his

twenty-third year, first entered into action, and distinguished himself in many engagements.

Feb. 23, 1758.—His Serene Highness stormed the town of Hoya, capital of the county of that name, and obliged the French commandant, Count de Chabot, to surrender the place by capitulation, after a loss, on the part of the garrison, of six hundred and seventy.

June 23.—At the battle of Crevelt, in which the French army, under the Count de Clermont, was entirely routed, the hereditary Prince, at the head of two battalions of Grenadiers, made an attack upon the French, who were in a neighbouring wood, and maintained a fire for two hours and a half, without ceasing, till the enemy were thrown into confusion, and completely defeated. It was in this battle that Count Gisors, only son of Marshal Belleisle, was mortally wounded.

July 29.—He dislodged the French from Bruggen, and took possession of the town.

August 3.—He attacked a strong French post at Wachtendonk, and drove the enemy away, with the loss of only two Grenadiers.

April 1, 1759.—He took possession of Meinengen, and made two battalions of the Cologne troops prisoners. He reached Wasungen the same day, took it, and made prisoners the battalion of Nagel. He likewise obliged Count de Arberg, who was coming to its relief, to retire.

5.—He repulsed a body of Austrians from Smalkalden and Thuringia.

July 28.—He dislodged the French from Lubec.

August 1.—He made an attack upon eight thousand French, at Thornhauson, under M. de Brisac, whom he routed, taking five pieces of cannon, and near two thousand prisoners.

17.—He dislodged a French corps under M. de Armentiere from Wosshagen.

Sep. 2.—He surprised a party of French at

Neider Weimar, took two cannons, and many prisoners, without any loss.

Nov. 30.—He attacked a body of French at Fulda, under the Duke of Wurtemburg, cut many of them to pieces, and took the rest, with two cannons, two colours, and the baggage.

Dec. 25.—He arrived with his troops at Chemnitz, in Saxony; and,

Jan. 12, 1760,—Was at Freyburg with the King of Prussia. Having continued a little time in Saxony, he left that Electorate, and with his army passed the frontiers of Thuringia; arriving at Hesse, after a series of successful skirmishes.

July 10.—He engaged ten thousand French at Corback; but being inferior in men and artillery, it became necessary to make a retreat; which was accomplished with some loss. In this action he received a wound in the shoulder.

16.—He gave battle to the French under General Glaubitz, at Emsdorf, and took two battalions, and the commander, prisoners.

22.—He took Dellenburg, and made the garrison prisoners.

August 1.—In the battle of Warburg, he attacked and forced the enemy's flank, and drove him to the town.

5.—He made an attack, in the night, upon Zeigenberg, bringing off forty officers and three hundred men.

Sep. 30.—He passed the Rhine, after having scoured the country, and having taken Rees and Emerick.

Oct. 16.—He attacked M. de Castrees, and was engaged from five in the morning till nine at night; but was obliged to retire. His Highness received a wound in his leg, and his horse was shot under him.

March 2, 1761.—He dislodged the French from Budingen.

May 20.—He routed several French advanced posts at Wesel, &c.

July 16.—In the defeat of the French at Movenover, his Highness was present, and formed part of the right wing.

20.—He had a smart skirmish with the French; in which his brother, Prince Albert Henry, received a wound, of which he died, on the 8th of August, at Ham.

Nov. 13.—He routed a large French detachment of Cavalry under M. de Closen, near Katlenbourg.

April 19, 1762.—He took the castle of Arenberg; the garrison of which, consisting of nine officers and two hundred and thirty-one men, commanded by M. Muret, surrendered at discretion.

June 24.—He was present at the battle of Grabenstein, when the French were defeated with the loss of near five thousand men.

July 24.—He arrived at Mark, near Hem, after dislodging some French detachments from Osnaburg, and harassing the Prince of Conde in his march.

August 25.—Being on a march with some light troops, near Franckfort on the Main, he fell in with the main body of the French, and lost thirty men and three cannons.

31.—He engaged Count Stainville, near Friedberg; in which, after a brave resistance, he was unsuccessful, and received a musket ball in his side, which made a deep perforation. He was conveyed successively to Homberg, Fritzlar, and Munden; at which last place the wound was opened. This operation, which was very painful, was succeeded by a fever, occasioned by the working of a splinter; but in about three weeks he was declared to be out of danger. His Highness was attended by Dr. Wostoff, the King's physician; and was visited, during his confinement, by his father the Duke.

Such was the last action in which this Prince was engaged; for in less than three months afterwards, hostilities entirely ceased. The English nation took a lively feeling in these exploits, not only because they were performed by a hero of the House of Brunswick, but because in some cases they were achieved by the important assistance of British soldiers.

The Hereditary Prince was already related to the Royal Family of this Country, as will be seen by the following statement:

His Most Serene Highness Charles William Ferdinand, Hereditary Prince of Brunswick Wolfenbuttle Bevern, to whom the King's sister, Princess Augusta, was married, was the eldest son of the then Reigning Duke of that dominion, by the Princess Philippina Charlotta, second sister to the King of Prussia, and was in the 29th year of his age, being born the 9th of October, 1735. He had two brothers and five sisters then living, viz. Prince Frederick Augustus, aged 23, a Lieutenant-General, and Prince William Adolphus, aged 18, a Colonel, both in His Prussian Majesty's service; and the Princesses Sophia Carolina Maria, aged 26; Ann Amelia, aged 24; Elizabeth Christina Ulrica, aged 17; Frederica Wilhelmina, aged 15; and Augusta Dorothea, aged 14. A third brother, Prince Albert Henry, who would then have been coming of age, was slain on the 20th of July, 1761, in a skirmish with a body of French. There were three more children, who died in their infancy.

The Reigning Duke had three brothers and six sisters, uncles and aunts to the Hereditary Prince:

1. Anthony Ulric, born 1714, who married a daughter of the preceding Duke of Mecklen-

burg Schwerin, and had three sons and two daughters.

2. Lewis Ernest, born 1718, Field-Marshal in the Dutch service, and Governor of Bois le Duc. He was the guardian of the young Prince of Orange, and was formerly Duke of Courland.

3. Prince Ferdinand, of Brunswick, born 1721, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied army in Germany. His Most Serene Highness was likewise Governor of Magdebourg, and a Knight of the Garter.

4. Elizabeth Christina, born 1715, afterwards Queen of Prussia.

5. Louisa Amelia, born 1722, Princess Dowager Royal of Prussia.

6. Sophia Antoneilla, born 1724, espoused to the Reigning Duke of Saxe Saalfeld, brother-in-law to the Margrave of Anspach.

7. Christina Charlotta Louisa, born 1726.

8. Theresa Natalia, born 1728, a Canoness of the Protestant Abbey of Hervorden.

9. Juliana Maria, born 1729; married to the King of Denmark.

Prince Augustus William Frederick, of Bevern, a Prussian Field-Officer; Prince Frederick George, of Bevern, a Canon of Lubec; and Prince Frederick Charles, of Bevern, in the Prussian and Danish service, were cousins to the then Reigning Duke.

The House of Brunswick, like that of Mecklenburg, is divided into two branches; Brunswick Wolfenbuttle, and Brunswick Lunenburg. Ernest, the Confessor, who first introduced the Reformation

into his dominions, was the founder of both these lines, and was succeeded, in 1546, by

ELDEST SON, *Wolfenbuttle Line,*	YOUNGEST SON, *Lunenburg Line,*
Francis Otho; succeeded, 1559, by his brother	William; succeeded by his son
Henry; succeeded, 1598, by his son	Ernest; succeeded, 1611, by his brother
Julius Ernest; succeeded, 1636, by his brother	Christian; succeeded, 1633, by his brother
Augustus; succeeded, 1666, by his son	Augustus; succeeded, 1636, by his brother
Rudolph Augustus; succeeded, 1704, by his brother	Frederick; succeeded, 1648, by his nephew
Anthony Ulric; succeeded, 1714, by his son	Christian Lewis; succeeded, 1665, by his brother
Augustus William; succeeded, 1731, by his brother	George William, Elector of Hanover; succeeded, 1705, by his nephew and son-in-law
Lewis Rudolph; succeeded, 1735, by his first cousin	George I. of Great Britain; succeeded, 1727, by his son
Ferdinand Albert; succeeded, 1738, by his son	George II; succeeded, 1760, by his grandson
Charles, the then Reigning Duke, and father of the Hereditary Prince, to whom this refers.	George III. brother to Augusta, Princess of Brunswick.

Thus, by the intended marriage, the two branches of this illustrious House were to be again united. The Prince, on his way to England, embarked at Helvoetsluys, on board the Royal Yatch, Princess Augusta, the 10th of January; landed at Harwich on the 12th, in the morning; arrived in London the 13th; waited on the King and Queen on the 14th; and was married on the 16th, at Seven o'clock in the evening: by which it will appear that his career, in the character of a lover, was marked by the same rapidity that distinguished his operations as a soldier.

There was certainly some deviation from the substantial delicacy of true English feeling in this precipitation, which has been avoided in recent instances of a similar kind. If a Foreign Princess consent to marry a Prince of England, and condescend to come to him for the purpose, delicacy and every noble sentiment of man's mind forbid even the appearance of delay; but when the Foreigner is of the other sex, and the intended bride an English Princess, then some days should be granted to decorum and sentiment. The Princess Augusta, very probably, felt a desire to leave her native country, in which she was now but the second Lady; and, therefore, favoured any arrangement that might conduce to such an event.

To the marriage ceremony, on this occasion, none were admitted but Peers and Peeresses, with their sons and daughters; Privy Councillors, with their wives; and Foreign Ambassadors. The service was performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, in the great Council Chamber, at St. James's Palace, where the Bride and Bridegroom remained till Nine o'clock; and then repaired to Leicester House, to a grand supper prepared for them and the rest of the Royal Family, by the King's Mother. His Majesty made the Bride a present of a diamond necklace, said to be worth £30,000; and the Queen presented a gold watch, of extraordinary workmanship, set with very large brilliants, and of great value: the Princess Amelia gave a casket of various jewels worth £80,000; and the Duke of Cumberland's gift was a set of diamonds for the hair, of £20,000 value.

But a much more humble gift was offered to the newly-married Lady on the morning after her nuptials, by the female who had nursed her; it was Her Royal Highness's first pair of shoes: for these, it is said, she received a remuneration of a hundred guineas.

On the 25th, the Hereditary Prince attended His Majesty to Parliament, where the Royal assent was given to a Bill for naturalizing him, and then returned to Leicester House to dinner, where the Princess had remained all the morning, taking a tender and affectionate leave of her friends and intimates, and shewing herself frequently at the windows, to gratify the populace, who were anxious to see her. Their Highnesses then sat down with a splendid party to dinner; and at Three o'clock took leave of the company, in order to set out on their journey. The Prince came to the window, to return his thanks for the good wishes the people were expressing towards him, saying, he hoped England might long enjoy that peace and prosperity for which he had already fought and bled, and for which he was willing to do the same a hundred times more, whenever he might be called on. The Prince and Princess then came down to their respective carriages, where they were again saluted by the loud greetings of the populace, and proceeded on their journey to foreign lands.

Congratulations by individuals and from public bodies (i) were poured in upon the Throne, on this occasion of domestic felicity; and, though they might be matter of form and ceremony, with regard to some, they must have come from the heart in the addresses of others, who, if they were near observers, must see how likely it would be to increase the King's domestic happiness, by removing to a distance, under apparently very favourable circumstances, an elder sister, who felt herself superseded and rivalled at home. His Majesty, with the goodness of heart that was evident in all he did, enjoyed the prospective felicity of the Princess, whom he saw thus married, and expressed himself thankful that his subjects partook of his feelings.

But this amiable and truly British Monarch had, at this time, causes of uneasiness, sources of anxiety, grounds of severe disquietude, that required all his natural fortitude of temper to bear, all the beneficent exertions of his pious mind to counteract, and all the soothing consolations that could be supplied by a faithful and affectionate wife to alleviate. The King had wisely set out, on his ascending the Throne, with a determination to make the Sovereign Power, what it ought to be in this Country, a fair balance between the Nobility and the People; and, to accomplish this object, he had to circumscribe the power of one party, and to increase the importance of the other. He began with the first; and in this brief account, it has been shewn how the *great families*, as they were called, leagued against him. On the retirement of Lord Bute, the King selected a set of servants, for the purpose of carrying on the Government, from such leavings of contending parties as were not fixed in their opinions, or such as were ever at the call of the best paymaster; and the Duke of Bedford was put at the head.

This administration, however, being opposed in every thing they did, by the overwhelming opposition, who wished for their places, found it impossible to go on; and the King resolved to form a new one. In this he consulted Mr. Pitt, whose statement was, that an administration, to be strong and permanent, must be made up of *the great families*. His Majesty knew well what this meant: he had tried it, for a few months, in the beginning of his reign, and felt that it was slavery to the people, thraldom to the King, and freedom only to those who wished to govern both. To this the Monarch declined to submit; and a new administration, under the same difficulties as before, was formed, of incongruous materials, with the Marquis of Rockingham at the head, a nobleman of amiable

character and manners, but of little talent. This combination was not more permanent than the last: it was equally incompetent to withstand the weight of its opponents; but it was distinguished by a feature of character particularly disgraceful, that of treating the King with contempt, and even with insult. They felt, from the beginning, their incapacity; they felt that their measures were frustrated and abortive; and, rather than submit to the blame they justly merited, they endeavoured to throw it upon the King, by insinuating that they were overruled by a private adviser, who always remained behind the curtain; and at last spoke openly that this adviser was Lord Bute. The Ministers, who thus endeavoured to hide or to screen their imbecility, by laying hold of a popular prejudice, knew at the time that the charge was unfounded.

I am authorized to state, and I state it with the most perfect conviction in my own mind of its being the truth, that the Earl of Bute never was a private adviser of the King, after he ceased to be Secretary of State. His Majesty was fully aware that this would, and must be, the case; for, when Lord Bute's resignation was announced to him, he said, "Then, I have not lost a servant only—I have lost a friend."

But the Rockingham Ministers were insidious, as well as weak. As a part of the aristocracy, they were adverse to that desire of giving greater freedom to the people, which they knew to prevail in the Royal mind; and they took advantage of a moment of alarm, and of temporary estrangement from it, that made them, and was very near making the King, odious to the whole nation.

The people of England love liberty with all their hearts: they are a generous, high-spirited people, and cannot wish for a thing without endeavouring to seize it. Thus they are made the willing and subservient dupes of artful, designing, bad men,

who profess a violent enthusiasm to serve them; and intend, at the same time, no more than to raise themselves on the shoulders of the populace into importance, and, peradventure, into place.

The nation knew well, from his many public declarations, that the King was a sincere friend to liberty; and, impatient for that which could be given to them only by degrees in order to be salutary, the people fancied themselves intitled to riot with impunity, on every trifling occasion. There is, I believe, no period in the history of Britain that exhibits so many tumults amongst the populace, short of actual rebellion, as the early part of the reign of George the Third.

A skilful operator was not long wanting to bring these festering humours to a head—he was found in the bold, the loquacious, the profligate John Wilkes. It has been remarked, by a very able writer, that the people are always right in their first impulse, and always wrong afterwards; and they could not have had a better leader to direct their secondary impetuosities. It is not my object, it is not my disposition, to touch any political points any further, than as they are essential to explain or justify the characters of my Sovereign and his matchless Consort.

Wilkes, to whatever lengths he might go in pursuit of temporary importance, had little at stake in point of property, and nothing in character—a libertine in principle, he insulted the Government, traduced the King, and blasphemously ridiculed the Sacred Word of the God who made him. Would any one suppose that a people, as sensible as the people of England, could expect any good from the management of such a leader? Yes, they did expect it; they even idolized the man, with more devotion than the Israelites of old paid to the golden calf which themselves had made. But so far from bringing them good, this idol contributed

to turn from them, for a time at least, that which was intended to be bestowed.

The King, seeing this violent effervescence of the popular mind, began to hesitate on his favourite principle. He was distressed on both sides in the government of the Kingdom: the Ministers harassed him, because he wished to be a friend to the People; and the People, whom he wished to befriend, traduced, insulted, and rebelled against him. The Marquis of Rockingham, and his coadjutors, took advantage of this hesitation in the Royal mind, to carry on measures of an arbitrary nature against the liberties of the people, under the idea, or pretence, of putting down John Wilkes.

His Majesty was, also, assailed at this time by a periodical writer, under the signature of "Junius," who attracted great notice by his perspicuity, his boldness, and his perseverance. He set out, as all such writers do, with professing a devotedness to the cause of the People, and an anxious desire to become their champion. Succeeding generations may, and doubtless will, give him credit for the sincerity of his early professions, and I can conceive that his first motives were good; but when a man once permits himself to launch into a system of invective, he grows rapidly unconscious of the pain it inflicts upon others, and he becomes even more rapidly greedy of the applauses, which he mistakes for legitimate fame, that will be poured forth upon his productions by the unruly passions of bad and designing men. When we find Junius, in his first lucubrations, attacking and exposing the time-serving parasite, the false patriot, or the hypocritical priest, we go cheerfully along with him; but when we find him sparing, and not only sparing but advocating, the cause of a traitorous demagogue; nay, making his daring attacks on the sacred character of the King, and such a King! we condemn the man, and regret the prevalence of human de-

pravity. That this political writer was not known to the public at the time when he was most admired, and that he never, now, will be known by his proper designation, is certain, notwithstanding the many pompous boastings that have been made, even recently, of divulging this *mighty* intelligence. My confidence on this point is founded on facts not generally known.

By the indefatigable assiduity of those who are ever ready to assist the inquiries of Ministers that will pay them, the author of "Junius's Letters" became revealed to the Government; and it was deliberated in the Privy Council in what mode he should be treated. Very many of the members were for sending forth against him the awful thunders of the law; and it is probable this injudicious intention might have been adopted, had there not been some cooler heads in the Council. They stated, that the Government would risk too much in a contest where the People seemed to be so particularly concerned, as in an endeavour to abridge the *Liberty of the Press:* and they added, the uncertainty of obtaining a verdict from a London, or a Middlesex, jury, where the whole populace seemed in such a state of inflammation; so that, in the case of failure, the individual would become more audacious and bitter in his invective, and the Government would appear contemptible, from the evident want of power to put down its assailants.

In consequence of these opinions, the scheme of violent measures was abandoned: the writer was duly informed that he was known; and an alternative was offered him, of exposure, or a gratuity for silence. One or other of these *weighty* considerations, or both together, operated so effectually on the mind and nerves of the patriotic writer, that, notwithstanding his declarations of perseverance, Junius became silent, and remained so ever afterwards.

I have said thus much upon this subject, because it tends to illustrate the character of the King; and the King's character and circumstances are inseparable from those of the Illustrious Female, whose Memoirs I have undertaken to write.

His Majesty sanctioned, most cordially, the wise determination of his Council, in regard to this virulent assailant of Royalty; but it did not diminish his inquietude, on finding that the people whom he loved with a truly parental regard, were so prompt, and even eager, to take part with any one who was bold enough to traduce him. Consciousness of rectitude, and the sense of unmerited reproach, might have afforded him consolation; but His Majesty applied to a higher source for alleviation, in this severe trial to his feelings—he was a Christian, and he applied to his religion; but he found also an auxiliary, in this application, from his excellent Consort.

The Queen had been accustomed from her childhood to read a certain portion of the Bible every day; and she continued, through the whole of her life, to persevere in this important practice, taking the earliest opportunity that offered in the course of the morning. The King discovered this about the time to which I have been just referring, and solicited to become a participator in these diurnal perusals of the blessed *Book of divine consolations*. The consequences of such an additional intercourse between such minds, produced an elevation of the heart towards God, and a cheerful resignation under all his dispensations, that has invariably marked the lives of both Their Majesties.

But the Queen, with an anxious solicitude to furnish all the further alleviations that might depend upon human means, suggested to the King the possibility of benefiting his people, almost in spite of themselves, by exciting them to an assiduous study and cultivation of those arts and sciences that

never fail to civilize the ferocious exuberances of man's character.

The accomplished Monarch had already a taste for all the elegant arts, for his mind was highly cultivated; and he delighted to find that he could make his own inclinations the means of promoting the happiness and prosperity of his people. In furtherance of these plans, he directed the building of that grand edifice, called Somerset House, after the old Palace which formerly stood on the same ground; an edifice which, whether it be considered in reference to its magnitude, its complication of parts, its conveniences, its style, and its execution, is an honour to this, and would be an honour to any other country.

In the mean time, the King, advised by the same tender and faithful Friend, countenanced and promoted the establishment of an Academy for the study of the imitative arts, Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture, on which he ever after bestowed the most fostering attention; and as soon as the magnificent front of Somerset House was completed, he appropriated the west wing to the use of this, his favourite Institution; and the east wing for carrying on the proceedings of the Royal Society, a society which is looked to with respect and veneration by the learned of every nation in the world.

The Queen had a delicate and nicely discriminating taste in Painting; the King's was lofty and grand: but he did not content himself with establishing a School of Art, and putting at the head of it the best artists that were to be found in England; he constantly overlooked the written accounts of their proceedings, correcting them when they appeared to be agitated by any little animosities or differences; he visited all the public exhibitions of their performances, accompanied by his tasteful Consort, both taking delight to commend whatever

they found good or praiseworthy in the apartments, and frequently, though always by agents, purchasing such works as manifested increasing talent. The King even did not stop here in his care for the British school of arts; he had various persons employed by his authority, and at his expense, in Italy, and in various parts of Europe, to purchase models, casts, pictures, and drawings; that the native artist, here, might see and emulate what had been done abroad by his predecessors. His Majesty, at first, defrayed the incidental expenses of the Royal Academy establishment out of his private purse; but the public exhibitions of the works of the Members and Associates have subsequently yielded such an ample revenue, as not only to pay all the ordinary outgoings, to maintain students abroad for the purposes of improvement, and to pension superannuated Members, but also to establish a large property in the funds, for supporting the Institution as a school of art, if ever the revenue from the public exhibitions should fail.

The benefits derived to the Country from the efforts of this wise and gracious plan of Royal policy, have been so great and so evident, that not many years ago, the Finance Minister of the day, on bringing a bill into Parliament, for tripling the assessed taxes, in order to meet an urgent demand for money, framed a clause, to exempt from the operation of the bill, the Members of the Royal Academy, on account of their services in promoting the manufactures and the commerce of the Kingdom.

The King was not a practical painter, though his mind was finely endowed for it; but, in the short intervals of leisure which he allowed himself from the duties of his arduous office, he amused himself in cleaning and restoring some of the valuable old pictures that were purchased for him on the Continent. To bring out a fine and beautiful work of

this kind from unintelligible obscurity, is in the next degree to painting one; and His Majesty was successful in these undertakings greatly beyond the best achievements of those who make it a professional employment.

An English Gentleman writing from Rome, at this period, thus expresses himself:

"Nothing affords me here so much satisfaction, both as a lover of the Arts and of my Country, as to learn the great number of fine and valuable things that have been purchased lately, and are still purchasing, for our accomplished young King. He is already master of the best collection of drawings in the world, having obtained two or three of the finest collections in this Emporium of Arts. One, consisting of three hundred large volumes, filled, chiefly, with original drawings of the first masters, belonged to Cardinal Albani, and was purchased for 14,000 crowns: the others consist, in a great measure, of the most exquisite engravings, after celebrated pictures, statues, and gems. Venice, also, has been ransacked to furnish supplies of the same kind; and I confidently hope and trust, that the Arts and Sciences will soon flourish greatly in our Country, under the protection and encouragement of a Sovereign, who is himself so good a judge of what is good or excellent in all matters of taste."

Amongst the other arts in which the King delighted, and in which he was assisted and encouraraged by the Queen's fine taste, was that of Architecture. She early excited his mind to works of this class, for which it was already predisposed. The magnificence of a great Sovereign, governing a wealthy people, will be seen in his public edifices; and, if he be a despot, the magnitude of his works will be, inconsiderately, beyond the means of his subjects: but in England, where every thing in government is established for the good of the whole, the importance of employing a number of poor labourers, and numerous artisans, will ever be connected with an idea of national usefulness in the edifice.

This passion for architecture grew upon the

Royal Pair; but it is in the King only that we could have a manifestation of its existence, to such a degree as to consider it a ruling passion. His Majesty is reported to have said, in a domestic conversation, after viewing the magnificent mansion just built on the south side of Berkeley-square, by Lord Shelbourne, "He has just finished the finest house in England, and it will long employ his attention to furnish it suitably. I should be delighted to build the finest palace in Europe; and it would be a gratifying relaxation from the painful labours I have to encounter as a King. I know, already, what it is to erect a small edifice, though it be but the decorative temple of a garden; but in rearing a great and magnificent structure, there must be employment for the soul, as well as for the best affections of the heart. To see taste and genius, both ancient and modern, all collected in my service, and striving to excel each other in their various departments, is a situation that would make me look down with pity on my warlike brother, of Prussia, reviewing his battalions at Potsdam."

The improvements the King made in the Palace at Windsor, during a succession of years, will long remain as incontestable evidences of the taste and discernment of Their Majesties in this species of art; and, notwithstanding the cavils of many, who can bear nothing but what affects the Grecian or Roman style, the unfinished castellated Palace at Kew will prove the extreme grandeur of the King's conception. But His Majesty, with a persevering attention to the one great object of his reign, the good of his people, tried to induce others to the same feelings and pursuits. He persuaded some Noblemen to purchase pictures; he induced others to build, or to improve the beauty of their estates: he even contrived to extend these benefits, in a certain degree, to his foreign subjects; for, after the conclusion of peace, he exempted from every species

of taxation, all those parts of his Hanoverian dominions which had suffered by the ravages of war; and ordered that any person, who chose to build, should be supplied with the requisite materials, free of all cost whatever, by the state, for three years.

In what a splendid light do these facts place the characters of our King and his Consort! how they shine with the brightness of their good deeds! They were admired and revered by the rest of Europe; and it was only at home that they met with detractors, calumniators, or persons insensible of their worth: but the malignant vapours of wilful misrepresentation, which many have laboured to spread round them, will be dispersed like the morning mists at the majestic rising of the sun; and the virtues, the excellencies, of the King and Queen of these times, will be remembered, reverenced, and quoted, when their detractors and calumniators shall have been buried centuries deep in oblivion.

The Queen passed the third year of her married life without adding to the number of the Royal Family; but she had thus more opportunity to watch over the two young Princes with whom her union had already been blessed; and she divided her time between her maternal duties to them, and the duty, even more important, if possible, of soothing and encouraging her Royal Husband, as I have just described. The children were, as yet, not old enough to call forth those great powers and endowments of mind in superintending them, with which their Mother was so eminently gifted, and which she so amply displayed when the proper period arrived; but they were both healthful, beautiful, and such, in every respect, as might have been expected from an early and chaste union of minds and persons so suited to each other. The Prince of Wales was considered as being so beautifully formed, for an infant, that a model was made of him

for the King, by a celebrated artist of the time, which is thus described:

"This ingenious performance, which is a perfect resemblance of the young Prince, exhibits the whole figure, entirely round, naked, and lying on a couch of crimson velvet, as if just undressed. His left leg is drawn up, and his right extended; his right arm he holds up, while the left lies at his side, holding a drapery that appears to have been thrown off in play. The whole is covered with a bell-glass, from the top of which, in the inside, hangs a ring by a small gold cord, in which is perched a dove, with an olive branch in its mouth, as emblematic of that peace which was about to dawn on the Country: the Infant appears to be looking anxiously at it. This beautiful specimen of such a mode of art is executed in stained wax, giving all the animation, tinctures, and softness, of real nature. The frame of the couch is of silver, gilt, wrought in a very elegant manner: at the back part of the head of the couch is the Prince's name, with the time of his birth, surrounded by a garland of laurels. The couch stands in an ebony plinth; and the stand for the whole is a massive piece of silver gilt plate, finely wrought into foliage and other ornamental designs; over which, in some parts, hangs a drapery lined with white satin, and fringed with gold. On the top of the glass is the Prince of Wales's coronet."

In the year 1765, and on the twenty-first of August, a month which the Queen's fruitfulness has rendered conspicuous in British annals, Her Majesty gave another Son to her Husband and the Country. Her Majesty was taken in labour at Two o'clock in the morning, and was safely delivered before Four; the Princess Dowager of Wales, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Secretaries of State, and several of the Privy Council, attending.—Thus, a fatalist would be led to say, the month of August has been particularly propitious to the House of Brunswick: On the first of August, 1759, Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick gained the glorious victory of Minden over the French, under the auspices of King George the Second; the eleventh of August, 1737, gave birth to Her Royal Highness the Princess

Augusta, Duchess of Brunswick; on the twelfth of August, 1714, the House of Brunswick succeeded to the Throne of these Kingdoms, in the person of George the First; on the same day in August, 1762, was born His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales; the sixteenth of the following August gave birth to His Royal Highness Frederick, Bishop of Osnaburg; and in August, 1765, Their Majesties' third Son was born.

The City of London, as usual, voted a congratulatory Address to the King, on this joyful occasion, expressing great regard for his Person and Family; though it was well known that the same body would be equally prompt and willing to insult him, whenever they did not approve or understand his conduct. The Lord Mayor, Aldermen, Common Council, and the Recorder, attended at St. James's, on the 28th of the month, in great state; and being introduced to His Majesty by Lord Orford, thus addressed him:

"MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

"WE Your Majesty's ever loyal and faithful Subjects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council, of the City of London, in Common Council assembled, humbly beseech Your Majesty to accept our most dutiful and sincere congratulations, on the safe delivery of the Queen, and the auspicious birth of another Prince.

"The joyful event of an increase in Your Majesty's illustrious Family, will always be gratefully considered by us as a further substantial security to the civil and religious liberties of this Your Majesty's free and native Country.

"Every addition to Your Majesty's domestic happiness fills our hearts with the highest pleasure and satisfaction; and fully confiding that Your Majesty's royal sentiments ever coincide with the united wishes of your faithful people, we gladly embrace every opportunity of testifying our joy, and of laying our congratulations at Your Majesty's feet.

"Permit us, therefore, Royal Sire, to assure Your Majesty that your faithful Citizens of London, from their zealous attachment to Your Royal House, and the true honour and

dignity of your Crown, whenever a happy establishment of public measures shall present a favourable occasion, will be ready to exert their utmost abilities, in support of such wise councils, as apparently tend to render Your Majesty's reign happy and glorious."

The King, with his accustomed dignity and graciousness, thus answered:

"I THANK you for this dutiful Address. Your congratulations, on the further increase of my Family, and your assurance of zealous attachment to it, cannot but be very agreeable to me. I have nothing so much at heart as the welfare and happiness of my people; and have the greatest satisfaction in every event that may be an additional security to those civil and religious liberties on which the prosperity of these Kingdoms depends."

A short time before her third confinement, the Queen had consented to become patroness of the Magdalen Charity; an institution formed for the purpose of bringing back to a serious and regular life those unhappy females, whom the seductions of bad men, or the depravity of their own hearts, had brought into vicious habits. As such it appeared to have peculiar claims on the heart and mind of a Lady, whose first object in life was to do good; and she continued, ever afterwards, a zealous friend and encourager of the institution. An amiable female, supporter of the Magdalen Charity, writing at the time to her friend in the country, to announce the above pleasing occurrence, thus concludes her letter: "May our Royal Mistress's noble example animate the conduct of all her subjects; and may my own sex, in particular, learn, that *to protect and assist penitent vice is one of the most amiable offices of human virtue.*"

But it is also highly creditable to the Queen's character, as a sensible and correct woman, that she did not take this excellent Charity under her protection upon the mere recommendation of other

well-disposed persons: she had all the proper papers and statements laid before her, which she perused and compared attentively, and then sent for the President, to give her still further satisfaction on some points. Here we can see nothing of that feverish charity, that grants in a moment, in order to get rid of importunity, or to alleviate its own uneasy feelings. May this serve as a lesson to my lovely and benevolent countrywomen!

When the House of Commons, soon after their re-assembling, sent a message of congratulation to Her Majesty on the occasion of her happy delivery of another Prince, during their recess, with her usual modesty and good sense she returned this answer:

"GENTLEMEN,

"THIS fresh instance of your duty to the King, and of attention to me, cannot but meet with my most hearty acknowledgments, and insure a continuance of that affection I bear to this nation, whose welfare and prosperity will ever be the first object of my wishes."

While this increase of the Royal Family was diffusing joy, or the appearance of it, throughout the country, the public feeling was further excited by an unlooked-for event; the arrival of the Hereditary Prince and Princess of Brunswick, in England. Whether the high character of the Queen, which was already esteemed and admired through every part of Europe, had led to the wish for a more cordial union than existed before; or whether the Prince had some pecuniary objects to accomplish; or whether both, acting at once, might have produced such an event—will never now be known: for those who only could reveal the truth on this point, are silent and cold in the grave. W[illegible]tever my opinion may be, I will not state it—
[illegible]der, from what he will find in this work,
[illegible]dge for himself.

Their Royal and Serene Highnesses landed at Harwich, and, proceeding immediately to London, arrived at the Queen's Palace about eight o'clock in the evening; where they were received by Their Majesties, and others of the Royal Family. They staid about an hour, and then went to apartments in St. James's Palace, where they supped in company with the Princess Dowager of Wales, the Dukes of York and Gloucester, and some other Royal Personages.

The City of London delighting, though in a time of peace, in the contemplation of warlike men, voted the freedom of their community to his Serene Highness, to be delivered in a gold box. It was accordingly presented, with the ceremonies usual on such occasions, and was received with suitable acknowledgments.

I trust I may venture here to state an extraordinary concurrence of circumstances, with respect to an individual of the Illustrious Family of Brunswick. —The Duchess of Blackenburgh, grandmother to the Prince who married our King's sister, lived to a very advanced age. She had the singular happiness and honour to reckon amongst her posterity sixty-two Princes and Princesses; fifty-three of whom she saw at one time alive. She could count in this number three Emperors, two Empresses, two Kings, and two Queens: an instance so rare, with regard to any Sovereign House, that I believe it is not to be paralleled by any other Family in the history of the world.

The Queen's Drawing Rooms were now held twice a week; one of which, of a select kind, took place on the Sunday mornings, immediately after Divine Service; by which Her Majesty insured the attendance, for those days, in the Chapel Royal, of a great number of the Nobility who flutter about a Court; while the attendance of those who held offices was enjoined as a duty by both Their

Majesties. At these select Drawing Rooms, which were generally soon over, the conversations were such as suited the sacredness of the day; the piety of both the Sovereigns always shining forth, to the edification of those about them.

The King's Levees also were now held twice a week; so that the Royal Family were living in a state of continual intimacy with the Nobility and Gentry of the Kingdoms. At all these, the Members of Government, and their opposers, even the most violent, if there were no other objections, were received with the same cordiality and gracious attention; so that those who disliked, and even despised the Ministers of the day, respected and loved their Royal Master.

On these public occasions, the King and Queen, anxious to turn every thing to good, contrived, delicately, to enter into the views, circumstances, and situations, of the persons with whom they conversed. They treasured up the information thus obtained; and the next year, or even years after, would resume the several conversations, when next visited by the same persons, with the promptitude and correctness of a yesterday occurrence. Of this I must give an instance.

A certain military officer was introduced to the King, early in life, and, after being long abroad, in various quarters, and on various services, returned to England, highly advanced in rank, and was again presented, at the Levee, on the occasion. "General," said the King, "it is five-and-twenty years since I have seen you."—"It is, indeed, a long time," answered the General, respectfully; "I was then in the 16th regiment."—"No," said His Majesty, "you was in the 42nd." The General bowed acquiescence, though doubting; but he has told me since, that, on comparing dates, he found he had exchanged into the latter regiment two days before the time of his first presentation.

By such means, the King and Queen were well acquainted with almost every person of any consideration in the country; and they made the most beneficial use of their knowledge. At this time, the young, the heroic, the accomplished Earl of Cornwallis, appeared at Court, distinguished by general esteem. I rejoice in having to speak thus early of this nobleman, who, in his youth, had fought against the King's enemies; and who afterwards went forth, as champion of England's glory, in remote and opposite quarters of the world.

During the war in Germany, so recently terminated, the Earl, then only an Ensign, though Aid de Camp to Prince Ferdinand, the Commander in Chief, applied to his father, the living Earl, to obtain him a higher commission. A Lieutenant-Colonel's commission was immediately purchased for him, in Colonel Napier's regiment, and sent to him, on condition that he should allow the retiring Lieutenant-Colonel £300 a year, who was very old, dependent, and had a large family. On his Lordship's coming to Court, he respectfully intreated the King's leave to resign his new commission in favour of the *Major of the regiment*, who had served very long and very meritoriously; and he even obtained, from Royal condescension, some advantages for other officers in the corps. It appeared, afterwards, that he regularly paid the pension of £300 a year to the Lieutenant-Colonel out of his own purse.

The King, to whom all this was well known, naturally wished to attach such a man to his person; and a vacancy occurring, appointed the young Peer one of his Lords of the Bedchamber. This, however, Lord Cornwallis, with grateful thanks, declined, on account of his ardent love for the military profession, which he had early embraced.

When this distinguished nobleman was afterwards appointed by the King to take the chief command in the distressful war against the Americans, a situation unexpected and unwished for by him, he had been recently married to a beautiful and accomplished Lady, the object of his tender affection; the attachment, indeed, was mutual, and such as must ever be felt, when founded on eminent virtues in both parties.

As soon as Lady Cornwallis received the distressing intelligence, so truly distressing to her Lord also, she went, in an agony of grief, to the King, threw herself at his feet, and entreated a revocation of the appointment. The Sovereign, melted even to tears on the occasion, consented; and the Lady returned in the full assurance of her continued happiness. But military honour has laws of its own, that cannot be trifled with; and the noble Lord, while he felt the heart-rending pangs of a fond husband, felt also his duties as a soldier. He flew to the King, beseeching him that the original order might be confirmed; and intimating that, if it were revoked, he should feel himself bound to go out with the army as a volunteer. His Majesty saw that there was no alternative: the high-minded hero went forth, brave, though broken-hearted, to fight for his country; and his accomplished, affectionate partner, fell a sacrifice to her grief for the absence of such a husband.

There is nothing in the history of Roman or Grecian magnanimity, that equals this devotedness of a noble mind to the consciousness of its duty.

The decline of the year 1765, brought a cloud over the minds of the Royal Family and its immediate connections, in the sudden death of the Duke of Cumberland, uncle to the King, on the 31st of October. He went to Court, at noon; after which,

he dined with Lord Albemarle, and drank tea with the Princess of Brunswick, at St. James's. His death appears to have been owing to the rupture of a blood-vessel in the brain.

On the 10th of November, in the evening, the Funeral of his Royal Highness took place, privately, in Westminster Abbey; the body having been previously removed for the purpose to the Prince's chamber.

At Ten o'clock the Procession began, passing through the Old Palace Yard to the south-east door of the Abbey, upon a floor railed in, covered with black cloth, and lined on each side with a party of the foot-guards. The order of Procession was thus:

Drums and Trumpets,
sounding a solemn march, and with banners attached to the trumpets and drums, and adorned with proper military trophies, the drums covered with black.
Knight Marshal's Men.
Gentlemen Servants to His Royal Highness.
Page of the Presence.
Page of the Back Stairs.
Page of Honour.
Physician.
Chaplains.
Equerries.
Secretary.
Officers of Arms.

Comptroller of His Royal Highness's household. — Treasurer of His Royal Highness's household.

An Herald.
Lord Chamberlain of His Majesty's household.
An Officer of Arms.
Gentlemen of the Horse to His Royal Highness.

Gentleman Usher. — The Coronet borne by a Knight at Arms. — Gentleman Usher.

The Body,

Covered with a black velvet pall, adorned with eight escutcheons, under a canopy of black velvet, and borne by eight General Officers; the pall being supported by four Barons.

A Gentleman Usher, supporter. A Duke. — Garter, King at Arms, Chief Mourner, his train borne by a Baronet. — A Gentleman Usher, supporter. A Duke.

The Earl Marshal's Assistants.
A Gentleman Usher.
Lords of the Bedchamber.
Grooms of the Bedchamber.
Yeomen of the Guard.

At the entrance of the Abbey, the Dean and Prebends, attended by the Choir, received the Body, falling into the Procession just before the Officer of Arms, who conducted the Lord Chamberlain, and so proceeded into King Henry the Seventh's Chapel, where the Royal Body was deposited in tressels, with the head towards the Altar, the Coronet and Cushion being laid on the Coffin, and the canopy held over it, while the service was read by the Dean of Westminster. The Chief Mourner, and his Supporters, sat at the head of the Corpse, the Lords Assistants, and the Supporters of the Pall, sitting on stools at the sides.

The part of the Service before the interment being read, the Corpse was deposited in the vault; and the Dean having finished the Service, Garter proclaimed his Royal Highness's style, as follows:

"Thus it hath pleased Almighty God to take out of this transitory life unto his Divine Mercy, the late most high, most mighty, and most illustrious Prince WILLIAM AUGUSTUS, Duke of Cumberland, and Duke of Brunswick and Lunenburgh, Marquis of Berkhampstead, Earl of Kennington, Viscount Trematon, Baron of the Isle of Alderney, Knight of the most noble Order of the Garter, and First and Principal Companion of the most honourable Order of the Bath, third Son of his Most Excellent Majesty, King George the Second."

Twenty-one pieces of artillery were drawn into the Park, and fired minute-guns during the ceremony; and three battalions of the Guards, were formed in St. Margaret's Church-yard, and fired vollies, on a signal given, while the Corpse was depositing.

Of the character of this Prince, so conspicuous in the annals of modern Europe, there are various opinions. As an Officer, he was thought too much attached to the arbitrary and stiff regulations of German discipline; as a General, he was not always successful, though he triumphed over the irregular,

ill-trained army of Scotch rebels; as a Senator, he was supposed to favour the People, which gave him a certain degree of popularity; in private life, he was mild, humane, and gracious. An instance of benevolence in his conduct has been recorded, and many more such might be added to it, for his acts of kindness were numerous; but, as the motive of action was the same in all, one may suffice.

When the Duke of Cumberland, in the year 1745, led the Royal Army into the North, for the purpose of correcting the deluded Scotch, he stopped at Penrith in his way, where the troops halted two nights. A youth who was there at school, and whose father had for many years been one of the lowest servants in the Royal Household, but who had recently died, and left the son without provision, contrived to get a petition presented to His Royal Highness. The youth had stated his case with so much ingenuousness and effect, that the Prince was induced to send for him into his presence; when, after pausing some minutes in order to recollect some circumstances mentioned in the petition, he thus addressed the youth, in a voice that implied condescension and kindness: "I remember your father well; his honour and integrity, as a servant, deserved esteem. The loss of the good old man was a public loss. Could I be persuaded that you would adopt his maxims, such a provision should be made for you, as would enable you to live with the credit and reputation that his services entitled him to expect. However, take this purse for your present wants; and I give you my promise, that when, under the direction of God, these national tumults shall have been put down, if I survive, you shall find me your friend." Some years afterward, the young man came to London to claim the promise, and was appointed to a very respectable situation in the Palace at Windsor.

The affectionate attachment of servants is ever a

sign of a good master, and those of the Duke of Cumberland were entirely devoted to him: they mourned for his death with unfeigned and deep sorrow, treasuring up, as sacred relics, any little things that had once been his property. John Mezo, a kind of hussar servant, went, soon after the Duke's funeral, to one of the pages, asking for a suit of his late Royal Master's clothes; to which the page readily acceded, well knowing the merits of the hussar; and told him to go to his room for a suit of grey, which he would find there. He advised him to get it fitted up with black buttons and trimmings, to serve for mourning. This he resolved to do; and finding the suit, with all the visible pockets turned out, he went immediately to the tailor, who discovered an inside and secret pocket, in which were a pair of gloves, and a pocket-book containing bank notes for £1751. The honest hussar made the tailor take down the number and value of the notes, and then prevailed on him to go with him to Cumberland-House, where he delivered the whole, sealed up, to the Gentleman in waiting.

In the December following, the King lost his youngest brother, Prince Frederick, who died at sixteen years old. He was a youth of great promise; and his loss was particularly felt by the Queen, to whom he was exceedingly attached, and whom he treated with unceasing kindness, respect, and attention.

In the beginning of this year, the King had been attacked by a violent illness, (*k*) which preyed upon him for some time; but the unwearied assiduity and affectionate attendance of the Queen finally restored him, without its being generally known. The King, however, feeling, and feeling doubly, after this tender and faithful discharge of conjugal duty on the part of his Consort, what he ought to do, took the earliest possible opportunity of taking those steps which were necessary for the future well-being of

those who were most dear to him, as likewise for the permanent tranquillity of his subjects.

He went to the House of Peers, to give assent to some bills that were ready; and, having sent for the Commons, as usual, His Majesty addressed a Speech to both Houses. He stated, that the tender regard he felt for his faithful subjects, made him anxious to provide for every possible event which might affect their future happiness or security;—

That his late indisposition, though not attended with danger, had led him to consider the situation in which his Kingdoms and his Family might be left, if it should please God to put a period to his life, while his Successor was of tender years;—

That the high importance of this subject to the public safety, good order, and tranquillity; the paternal affection he bore to his Children, and to all his People; and his earnest desire that every precaution should be taken which might tend to preserve the Constitution of Great Britain undisturbed, and the dignity and lustre of its Crown unimpaired,—had determined him to lay this weighty business before the Parliament; and as his health, by the blessing of God, was now restored, he took the earliest opportunity of meeting them, and recommending to their serious deliberation, the making such provision as would be necessary, in case any of his Children should succeed to the Throne before they shall, respectively, attain the age of eighteen;—

That to this end, he proposed to their consideration, whether, under the present circumstances, it would not be expedient to vest in him the power of appointing, from time to time, by instrument in writing, under his sign manual, either the Queen, or any other person of his Royal Family, usually residing in Great Britain, to be the Guardian of the person of such Successor, and the Regent of these Kingdoms, until such Successor shall attain the age of eighteen years; subject to such restrictions and

regulations as are contained in an Act passed on a similar occasion, in the 24th year of the reign of the late King, his Royal Grandfather: the Regent so appointed to be assisted by a Council, composed of the several persons, who, by reason of their dignities and offices, are constituted Members of the Council established by that Act; together with those whom they might think proper to leave to his nomination.

Both Houses of Parliament concurred in meeting the King's wishes on this subject; and a Bill was brought in, and carried through expeditiously. When it was ready for the Royal Assent, His Majesty thus expressed himself to his Parliament:

"My Lords, and Gentlemen,

"The provisions which have been made for the administration of the Government, in case the Crown should descend to any of my Children under the age of eighteen years; whilst they add strength and security to our present establishment, give me the kindest and most convincing proof of your confidence: the sense which I have of the important trust reposed in me, and my desire to repay this mark of your affection, by discharging my part agreeably to your intentions, in the manner most beneficial to my People, have concurred to make me execute, without delay, the powers with which you have entrusted me. This is already done; and you may be assured, that, as far as it depends upon me, those salutary provisions shall never be ineffectual. It is my ardent wish, and shall be my constant endeavour, on this, and on every other occasion, to perpetuate the happiness of my subjects, and to transmit to posterity the blessings of our invaluable Constitution."

But the King's troubles were thickening upon him. The losses in his domestic circle; the refractory disposition of his Ministers, and their insulting presumption; the frequently occurring tumults of his British subjects—he felt, and he felt severely: yet he was enabled to sustain his mind under the pressure, though his health suffered in the effort. The good, the pious, are destined to trials and con-

flicts, not only for their own benefit, but for the benefit of mankind; and there is scarcely an instance in the history of human affairs, that exemplified this principle more decidedly than the lives of George the Third and his Queen.

At this time clouds and storms began to collect on the opposite shores of the vast Atlantic Ocean, that seemed pregnant with tumult, rebellion, war, and bloodshed. The King looked towards this gathering tempest, and its mighty forebodings, with a bleeding heart; for he loved peace, and he loved his people, however remote their situation from him. As I am not writing a History of England and her possessions, but merely a Memoir of the Queen, the King, the Royal Family, and the Court, I have nothing to do with the calamitous events that took place in America, where father was opposed to son, brother to brother, friend to friend, for many years, in all the terrible vicissitudes, and with all the heart-rending inveteracy, of rebellion and civil warfare; but it is my duty to state the reasons that induced the King to adopt a principle of coercion on this occasion, as it tends to shew the unvarying consistency of his character. Whether the details of Government, by which such a determination was to be carried into effect, might be wise or unwise, remains still a matter of discussion. I have stated early in this work the conviction of His Majesty's mind, that he ought not to interfere in the means by which his servants endeavoured to accomplish measures which his own judgment dictated.

The British Settlements in North America had been peopled at different periods, and progressively, by discontended persons from the Mother Country, who fancied a want of religious toleration at home; and who thought that, in a new country, they might be enabled to carry into effective execution their own plans of discipline and religious government.

This idea was common to most of the first settlers; but as they were in detachments, and of many different sects, emigrating at different times, and establishing themselves in the widely extended regions of an unpeopled country; some, according to their dispositions, living near the coast; others penetrating into the interior of the country: no bond of union could exist amongst them, but by their looking mutually for protection to their common Parent. It is necessary to observe, that all these settlers had grants from the Crown of the lands they were to occupy, stipulating the terms, and therefore implying dependence.

As the population of these various establishments increased, they came in contact with each other, and differences arose; for as yet the principle of Christian unity and brotherly love had not been a concomitant of those who, even with zeal, professed themselves the servants of Christ Jesus. The Kings of England, therefore, found it necessary to appoint Governors over the different Settlements, which soon afterwards began to assume the important appellation of States, for the purpose of administering the restraints of regular government, according to British law. The effect of this was to combine the whole into the appearance of a nation: but the spirit of opposition to the Mother Country, which produced the first emigration, still remained; and the fear of Bishops, which there was a talk of appointing, increased the feverish feeling. To this must be added the circumstance, that the convicts, for crimes at home, were sent to America, as a kind of banishment; and, when their several terms of penal servitude were expired, they melted into the mass of the American community, full of the bitterest animosity towards a country from which they had been expelled.

The expenditure of the British Government, in superintending these States, had long been exces-

sive, and the returns trifling; but when it became necessary to enter into a war to protect them from the usurping encroachments of the French, who were inclined to attempt their entire subjugation, the whole strength of this Country was poured out freely, and with triumphant success. But war on such a scale, or on any scale, is expensive, and Britain was loaded with a heavy debt on the occasion. It was, therefore, fair and right that those who had been chiefly benefited by the protection, should pay something towards the expenses of the effort. I trust it will be kept in mind that I am not arguing this subject, but merely stating the considerations that influenced the Royal judgment on this momentous occasion.

The right of England to lay assessments on her Colonies was as old as her first attempts at colonization, and had never been contested, and the lands in America might be said to depend on, almost, a feudal tenure from the Crown; but the moment the debt of gratitude for parental care, and expensive protection, was required to be paid, up starts the whole mass of the people against their benevolent Mother, opposing an unquestionable right, and endeavouring to throw off an unalienable obligation, by a reference to abstract principles. These furnished the pretence; but the real cause was in a settled antipathy to England, which would have manifested itself long before, had the people of America been sooner in that state of security, to which they were now brought by a lavish expenditure of British blood and British treasure. The decision of the King's mind, after a very careful review of the circumstances of every part of the case, was to assert and claim the lawful rights and authorities of his Crown and Government; in which he would most undoubtedly have succeeded, had the governors and commanders under His Majesty, acted with the firmness and moderation of their Sovereign, who

ever wished to temper his justice with mercy and forbearance.

When the King came to Parliament to address them on this melancholy prospect, he said:

"My Lords, and Gentlemen,

"The present general state of tranquillity in Europe, gave me hopes, that it would not have been necessary to assemble my Parliament sooner than is usual in times of peace.

"But as matters of importance have lately occurred in some of my Colonies in America, which will demand the most serious attention of Parliament; and as further informations are daily expected from different parts of that country, of which I shall order the fullest accounts to be prepared for your consideration; I have thought fit to call you now together, in order that the opportunity may now be given, to issue the necessary writs on the many vacancies that have happened in the House of Commons since the last session; so that the Parliament may be full, to proceed immediately, after the usual recess, on the consideration of such weighty matters as will then come before you."

Here we see the upright, conscientious, constitutional King of England, first deliberating and weighing in his own mind what decision he ought to come to, for the preservation of those rights of the Crown, which he was appointed to preserve for his posterity, without endangering those other rights which he was bound to preserve for his People; and then calling the great Council of the Nation together, that their united wisdom might assist him. I have nothing to do with the subsequent resolutions of the Houses of Parliament on this subject, or the measures that were founded upon them—I turn to circumstances immediately connected with the Royal Family.

On the ninth of September, in the year 1766, and at an early hour in the morning, the Queen was safely delivered of a daughter, who being the first female proceeding from the union of Their Majesties, received the distinguishing title of Princess Royal.

The happy Parent, as usual, was blessed with a most favourable time, having the kind and sustaining presence of the Princess Dowager of Wales. The Ladies of the Household were in attendance, as well as several Members of the Privy Council, and the Great Officers of State. The London Gazette, of the same day, thus reported on the occasion:

"HER Majesty is, God be praised, as well as can be expected, and the young Princess is in perfect health."

The event was immediately made known by the firing of the Tower-guns; and in the evening there were bonfires, illuminations, and other demonstrations of joy, in London and Westminster. The Houses of Parliament, and the different Corporate Bodies of the Kingdom, addressed the Royal Pair on the occasion; but as they express only the same sentiments of rejoicing and attachment, which had been so happily expressed on three similar occasions before, it is not necessary to insert them. I must, however, insert the Ode on the King's Birthday in this year, because it contains a beautiful allusion to Her Majesty's fruitfulness.

ODE.

Hail to the Man, so sings the Hebrew Bard,
Whose num'rous offspring grace his genial board!
Heav'ns fairest gift, Heav'n's best reward,
To those who honour, who obey his word.
What shall he fear, tho' drooping age
Unnerve his strength, and pointless sink his spear?
In vain the proud, in vain the mad shall rage;
He fears his God, and knows no other fear.
Lo! at his call, a duteous race
Springs eager from his lov'd embrace,
To shield the Sire from whom their virtues rose,
And fly at each rever'd command,
Like arrows from the giant's hand,
In vengeance on his foes.
So Edward fought, on Cressy's bleeding plain,
A blooming hero, great beyond his years.

—but cease the strain,
[illegible]t bathes the Muse in tears.
[illegible] hereafter ev'ry Son,
[illegible] with prattling infancy relieves
[illegible] anxious cares which wait upon a Throne,
[illegible]! too oft, amidst the myrtle, weaves
The thorn its pointed anguish—so
Shall every Son his duty know,
To guard the Monarch's right and People's weal.
And thou, great George, with just regard
To Heav'n, shall own the Hebrew Bard
But sung the truths you feel.
Blest be the day which gave thee birth!
Let others tear the ravag'd earth,
And fell ambition's pow'rs appear
In storms, which desolate the year.
Confest thy milder virtues shine,
Thou rul'st indeed, our hearts are thine.
By slender ties our Kings of old,
Their fable rights divine would vainly hold,
Thy juster claims e'en Freedom's sons may love;
The King who bends to Heav'n, must Heav'n itself approve.

The effects of the late war, and the effects of the peace that followed it, began now to be felt amongst a class of persons, whose situations and distresses excited great commiseration. In so extensive a warfare, carried on in Europe and in America, and extending itself, occasionally, over all the seas in the known world, many Officers must necessarily have fallen, whose families were not at all, or but scantily, provided for; and to these were to be added, the families of such Officers, as, having survived the dangers of the service, were reduced to an incompetent half-pay. All these had important claims on their Country; and, by the King's direction, the Government did all that was possible for their alleviation. Many of the sons were put into situations for support or education, and the distress was considerably diminished with regard to the sons of such deserving individuals; but their daughters, the tender, the delicate, the lovely daughters of British

heroes, seemed destined to pine in neglect and poverty. Representations on this subject were made to the Queen, from those who were best informed of the distressing facts; for at that time, the King was looked up to as the Fountain of mercy, and the Queen as the refreshing Source of tender charity and benevolence. Indeed, the Queen's disbursements were then so profuse, in relieving all who applied to her, that it became necessary, on the part of His Majesty, to order, by way of restriction, that she should pay the salaries of her domestics entirely out of her allowance, which, at first, had never been intended.

But there was another class of female orphans, that cried aloud to the Royal Pair for relief and protection—these were the youthful daughters of deceased Clergymen.

To accomplish both objects at once, the Queen, in the goodness of her heart, gave five hundred pounds for a house, in a healthy and retired part of Bedfordshire, where she caused arrangements to be made for a number of young females to learn embroidery, an art performed by females only, and then very much in request. To this asylum for distress, and school for ingenuity, orphan daughters of Military Officers, or of Clergymen, were admitted at fifteen years old. Mrs. Wright, a person of high repute in the practice, was engaged, on a very liberal salary, to superintend and teach; and Miss Moser, a Member of the Royal Academy, was engaged to design the patterns, in order that every opportunity might be afforded to the pupils for forming a fine taste. The first productions from this establishment were used to embellish the Royal Palaces; and the flowers and festoons in embroidery behind the Throne, in the Audience-Chamber at Windsor, were executed, soon after this period, and by these orphan children.

When the Palaces were supplied, the Queen, at

a great expense, continued to keep up the Institution; and when Mrs. Wright died, at an advanced age, the management of the place and pupils was confided to her daughter, who now carries it on. This is a bright and shining instance of heartfelt benevolence, and practical charity; but, compared to the numerous other bestowments of this most exemplary Lady, it is like one rich blossom on a tree of fragrant flowers, it is like a planet amongst the glittering stars of the firmament.

But from these contemplations, so soothing to the best feelings of the human breast; from the view of a happy, beloved Queen, esteemed by all, and never so happy as when dispensing blessings around her, we must turn to an event which took place at this time, and which must be admitted as an indispensable episode in this work. If there be any native of England that can read it without a sigh of commiseration, I will say that his feelings have been modidified in foreign countries; if there be one of my countrywomen that could hear it read without grief and indignation, I should be inclined to disown her; but I know that the trials, the sufferings, the fate of the Royal Matilda, will swell the "fringed curtains" of many a female eye with tears, and many a female bosom with anguish.

In the preceding year, the King had announced to his Parliament, that arrangements had been made for marrying his youngest Sister, as soon as she was old enough, to the then Crown Prince of Denmark; and he expressed a strong hope that such an union might contribute materially to the security of the Protestant religion. This, no doubt, was wise, as state policy, and most probably intended for the good of the world: but let me intreat the reader to consider the case of young men and young women, brought up with all the refinements of education, which make them more exquisitely disposed to feel what is good or desirable, denied the common privileges of other

people, and that too for the security of the State. Can we look on them without pity? shall we envy them their Royalty? shall we be able to say in our minds, that to be a Prince is to be happy? No; I am persuaded there is not one that will say so.

Before these intended espousals took place, the King of Denmark died, and the Crown Prince, under the title of Christian the Seventh, was declared his Successor. The mildness, good sense, and justice, of the deceased King, were the subjects of praise and regret among his People; and the details by which they are established would fill a large space—one splendid instance may serve for all.

About an hour before his decease, he called the Prince Royal to his bedside, and, taking him by the hand, said, "My dear Son, you will soon be King of a flourishing People: but remember, that, to be a great Monarch, it is absolutely necessary to be a good man. Have justice and mercy, therefore, constantly before your eyes, and above all things reflect, that you were born for the welfare of your Country, and not your Country created for your mere emolument. In short, keep the golden rule of doing as you would be done by; and, whenever you issue an order, as a Sovereign, examine how far you would be willing to obey such an order, as a subject." The previous life and government of this benevolent King had so fully exemplified the precepts he thus gave to his Successor, that the highest degree of justice and happiness, in the next Reign, were anticipated by the People.

In the evening of the twenty-first of October, at St. James's Palace, the ceremony of espousals, or contract of marriage, between Christian the Seventh, of Denmark, and the Princess Caroline Matilda, of England, was solemnly performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the King of Denmark being represented by the Duke of York, as his procurator. The newly made Queen was then in that height of

youthful beauty, which characterizes a lovely female at eighteen years old. She set out the next morning, from Carleton House, on the way to Harwich, where it was intended she should embark for the Continent, as soon as the wind was favourable. The leave she took of her Mother at parting, was of the most tender and affectionate kind; and this interesting, and now seemingly deserted, daughter of England, wept long and bitterly after she entered the coach that was destined to convey her far from all she held dear. This was a melancholy beginning of a nuptial union; but it was a true prognostic of the miseries that awaited the disconsolate Princess.

When she arrived at Harwich, the wind being contrary, she remained till the next day, and then went on board the Yacht prepared for her reception; where she remained, wind bound, for some time. Her Majesty was dressed in a bloom-coloured suit, with white feathers, and appeared impressed with melancholy; though, at the same time exhibiting a degree of sweetness and dignity that melted every heart, at the thought of so young a Princess, and so amiable, going far from her native land, to be delivered up to a man she had never seen. The people, every where as she passed along, prayed God to bless and protect her. Admiral Keppel commanded the Yacht.

Her Majesty landed at Rotterdam on the 9th of October, and set out for Utrecht in the Prince of Orange's Yatch, having been received on her landing by the Prince of Orange, the Prince and Princes of Nassau Weilborg, and Prince Lewis of Brunswick. The Princess attended Her Majesty till her departure, and she was cheered by the unanimous gratulations of the people. The Queen arrived the same day at Utrecht, and two days after at Deventer.

In the further prosecution of her journey, this young Bride passed through Bremen, Lingen, and

Altona, at which place the Ladies of her future Consort were presented to her. On the 8th of November, she made her public entry into Copenhagen, and in the evening the Royal Nuptials were solemnized in the Chapel of Christiansburg.

The King of Denmark could not be supposed to be very young, as his father had reigned more than sixty years; but he also displayed a weakness of intellect that bordered upon absolute incapacity, while he added to these unprepossessing qualities a habit of excessive indulgence in those coarse and vulgar pleasures of the table, which necessarily make a man disgusting to delicate females. Can any one conceive a more serious sacrifice on the altar of public good, than the devoting such a blooming, innocent, and accomplished young Lady, to such a man! But even worse than this was behind; for the man, by his weakness of mind, had been long, and of necessity, under the control and direction of his mother; and having no heart capable of tender attachment to deliver up to his blooming wife, he continued in his pupilage after he was married. The consequence of such a situation may be easily anticipated; and I will not, therefore, detain the reader with intermediate details, but proceed to the sad catastrophe of this melancholy history.

Christian the Seventh, the dissolute, the weak, the contemptible, had his favourites, like all other unfeeling Monarchs. Amongst these was Struensee, a man of obscure birth, but no inconsiderable talent: he was bred a physician; but uniting with his medical acquirements some knowledge of the civil law, he obtained rapid promotion at the Court of Copenhagen, and was raised to the office of Prime Minister. A man so suddenly elevated becomes a tyrant, or a reformer, accordingly as he loves dangerous pre-eminence, or delusive popularity. Struensee chose the latter; and, finding

great scope in such a government for carrying his views into practice, he applied the pruning knife to cut off excrescences and exuberant branches, with the freedom of a gardener, who comes into grounds that have been neglected for many years: he dismissed a sort of council, that was merely nominal, giving them, however, small pensions, instead of large salaries; he abolished the exemptions of the nobles; he reduced the military, disbanding all parade soldiers; and he was engaged in a plan to put an end, entirely, to the vassalage of the peasants. Such a man was sure to find an enemy in every person whose revenue or privileges he had contributed to reduce; and it was insinuated, that, being of low origin, he wished to degrade the whole of the nobility; thus bringing in many others to support and assist the malcontents. Struensee's principal coadjutor was Brandt, a youth of noble birth, and conspicuous courage, but inferior in talents to his leader. The Queen Dowager, Julia Maria, entertained a dislike against her Daughter-in-law, arising principally from her having been superseded in rank by the young Queen; and, further, from her wish to direct the reins of government, for the purpose of securing the succession to the Crown for her younger son, Prince Frederick; to which she considered Matilda as an impediment.

The mental and corporal weakness of this King, a disgrace to the name of Denmark, rendered him abjectly passive; and it became a point of contest, whether the Queen Consort, or the Queen Mother, should govern the Kingdom in his name. The emissaries of Julia Maria exerted every artifice, and seized every opportunity, to prejudice the people against the young Queen; and succeeded, in exciting jealousies and suspicions of the most odious nature. The favour enjoyed by Struensee was a dissatisfaction to many of the courtiers, who, in consequence, strengthened the opposite party;

while his own imprudence, and the unsuspecting disposition of Matilda, afforded great advantages; till, at length, a conspiracy was formed for seizing Her Majesty, Struensee, Brandt, and all their adherents.

This project was executed, after a grand masked ball at the Royal Palace. Struensee and Brandt, precipitated in a moment from the summit of power, were cast into prison, loaded with fetters, and finally, after undergoing great indignities, yielded up their lives on a scaffold.

The unfortunate Queen, having performed the tenderest of maternal duties, was retired to rest, when, at five o'clock in the morning, she was awaked by a female attendant, who presented to her the King's order to remove, for a few days, to one of the Royal Palaces in the country. The Queen, comprehending at once the nature and extent of her danger, rushed from her bed, and sought the presence of her husband; but at the sight of Count Rantzau, one of her professed enemies, in the antichamber, she recollected the necessity of attending to her dress, which she had totally forgotten, and retired to her apartment to remedy the indecorum; but when again attempting to go out, she found her progress impeded by an officer, stationed at the door by Count Rantzau for that purpose. She overcame this obstacle, as well as the impediment of two soldiers, who crossed their firelocks at the door of the antichamber: but when with great difficulty she reached the King's apartment, she found that he had been removed to another quarter of the Palace. This precaution the conspirators had taken, from fear of the Queen's influence disconcerting their schemes; for the King had, with much difficulty, been induced to sanction the measure; and a few moments' interview would have completely frustrated the design, rolling back the stream of ruin on those who had poured it forth.

Matilda's misfortune was now complete; she was surrounded by enemies, who, seeing her wholly in their power, treated her with sarcastic insolence: she was driven with the utmost rapidity to the Castle of Cronsberg, distant about twenty-four miles from Copenhagen, and there confined. The rooms that had been destined by her persecutors to receive this much-injured Queen, were of naked stone walls, damp, and nearly destitute of furniture; but entirely destitute of accommodations.

After the execution of Struensee and Brandt, the Queen Dowager's party, elated with their success, shewed a disposition to proceed to similar extremities against Matilda; but they were deterred, by the resolute interference of her brother, the Sovereign of this land of impartial justice. Articles of charge were undoubtedly exhibited against her, and examinations taken; but to what they amounted cannot, at this time, be exactly known. The common report was, that the articles supposed to be proved were sent to London, and submitted to the examination of the most eminent civilians. Though consulted separately, they all agreed in declaring, that the evidence, so far from amounting to legal conviction, did not even amount to a presumption of guilt; and they added, that they did not only refuse credit to the statements, as lawyers, but were obliged to disbelieve them as men. The failure, however, of this shallow scheme to prejudge the Queen, by the opinion of British advocates, had probably much less influence in saving her life, than the intimation, that if her person were injured, the King of England would send his fleet and lay Copenhagen in ruins; a threat which it is now well known the irresistible energies of our daring navy can execute at any time.

This contemptible triumph over a depraved and debilitated Monarch, and an artless and unsuspect-

ing Queen, is called the Revolution in Denmark. The spirited interference of the English Ambassador procured the release of the young Queen, after a confinement of four months in the fortress of Cronsberg. She was conveyed, under the escort of a British squadron, to Stade, in the Hanoverian dominions, and afterwards removed to the castle of Zell; where the liberality of the King, her brother, provided her a becoming household, and where she lived in a state of honourable retirement, till a premature death terminated her days at the age of twenty-four.

I feel that I need not apologize for inserting here a very interesting extract from the writings of one who visited that country soon after the events just recorded, as it presents a most impressive record of suffering Majesty:

"During her confinement in Cronsberg Castle, she "inhabited the governor's apartment, whose humanity would "not allow her to be lodged in the miserable place appointed "for her; and he also gave permission that she might watch "on the side batteries, or on the leads at the top of the "tower. She was uncertain of the fate that awaited her, "and had great reason to apprehend, that the very party "which had occasioned her arrest meditated still more "violent measures. When the English Minister at Copen- "hagen brought an order for her enlargement, she was so "surprised by the unexpected intelligence, that she instantly "burst into a flood of tears, embraced him, and called him "her Deliverer. After a short conference, the Minister "proposed that Her Majesty should immediately embark on "board a ship that was waiting to carry her from a kingdom "where she had experienced such a train of misfortunes. "But however anxious she was to depart, one circumstance "checked the excess of her joy: a few months before her "imprisonment, she had been delivered of a Princess, whom "she suckled herself. The rearing of this child had been "her only comfort; and she had conceived a more than "parental attachment to it, from its having been the con- "stant companion of her misery. The infant was, at that "period, afflicted with the measles; and, having nursed it

" with unceasing care and solicitude, she was desirous of " continuing her affectionate attentions. All these circum- " stances had so endeared the child to her, rendered more " susceptible of tenderness in a prison than in a Court, " that when an order was intimated to her for detaining the " young Princess, she exhibited the strongest emotions of " grief, and could not, for some time, be prevailed on to " bid a final adieu. At length, after bestowing repeated " caresses on this darling object of her affections, she " hastened to the vessel in an agony of despair: she " remained on deck, her eyes immoveably directed towards " the Castle of Cronsberg, till the coming on of night shut " it out from her view. The vessel having made but little " way in the night, at day-break she observed, with fond " satisfaction, that the Towers of Cronsberg were again " visible to her; and she could not be persuaded to enter " the cabin, while she could trace even a faint indication of " their battlements."

The same elegant writer thus describes her character:

" Queen Matilda was naturally of a lively disposition, " until her misfortunes brought on a settled melancholy, which " preyed upon her mind. In company, she endeavoured to " dissemble her sorrows, and assume a cheerfulness to which " her heart was a stranger. She became extremely fond of " solitude; and, when alone, indulged her grief in the most " bitter lamentations. She retained, to her last, the most " unaffected attachment to her children in Denmark: with " all the anxiety of a parent, she made repeated inquiries " after them; and was delighted with receiving the minute " accounts of their health, amusements, and education. " Having obtained their portraits from Copenhagen, she " placed them in her most retired apartment, after apostro- " phizing them as if they were present, and addressing them " in the tenderest manner."

The short but woeful life of this young Queen will be long and deeply remembered; and, even in distant ages, the sorrows of Matilda will draw tears from the sympathizing reader.

But, to return from this interesting digression, to my own Queen; who was blessed with a very

different kind of husband. In their evening parties at Buckingham House, or at Windsor, though the King had his music in one room, and the Queen her card tables and other amusements in the next, with the intervening door always open, the kind-hearted Monarch could not help feeling this as a sort of separation. If he heard the Queen pleased with any thing that occurred, he immediately passed from one apartment to the other, in order to share in her satisfaction; if any thing transpired in his own party, that seemed likely to give pleasure or entertainment if communicated, he hastened to the Queen, with affection beaming in his countenance, to make her a participator in his feelings. Indeed, the whole conduct of the King to his excellent Partner, was more like the delicate and respectful attentions of a devoted lover, than the languid decency that is to be found in so many husbands. I have the authority of those who have lived for more than forty years in close attendance on Their Majesties, being generally admitted to a considerable degree of intimacy, to say, that this affectionate behaviour of the King never in the least abated; and that the Queen repaid this regard with her whole heart, shewing her love and gratitude on every occasion.

Her Majesty was now become completely mistress of the English language, which she spoke but imperfectly on her arrival here, though well acquainted with several others. This, however, is not at all surprising; for, I believe it will be readily admitted by those who have made the experiment, that our language is more difficult to acquire, perfectly, than any other now spoken in Europe, on account of its extreme irregularity. The Queen had devoted herself to this study with indefatigable pains and assiduity; and now read the English authors with such avidity, that the King found it necessary to send her a fresh supply of books from

his own library almost every morning; and it was a matter of great wonder to many, how she could get through so many and such various occupations in the course of a day: but the secret lay in the practice of rising early, and in a regular method of dividing and appropriating time, which few are aware of, and which still fewer have sufficient perseverance to carry on long. Her reading was historical, critical, and religious, but chiefly of the latter kind: and thus the Queen had become pre-eminently qualified to direct the education of her children; a duty to which, as I have stated before, she applied herself with the most exemplary attention.

The Prince of Wales, at four years old, could read well; and, besides several other exercises, could go regularly and correctly through a long series of questions, that had been drawn up on purpose to give him a concise and clear view of scripture history. The two younger Princes, as might be expected, fell into the same habits, as far as they were able; so great is the importance to a family, of having the first child properly taught, and correctly disciplined, in all his usages. The Queen, though wisely seeing the absolute necessity of sustaining the dignity or privileges of various ranks in society with minute correctness, yet, in regard to her children, wished them to be brought up in the full conviction that they were human beings. This was illustrated some time afterwards, when the family was more numerous. Her Majesty was waiting for the children in the apartment appropriated for study, when a certain honourable Lady, who had been recently appointed to a situation near the Queen's person, came in and said, "Madam, the Princes and Princesses are coming." The Queen, with her usual good humour, gently rebuked her: "Say, the boys and girls are coming: there are too many of them now to admit

the use of titles, which will be important to them only when they are old enough to know the real value and use of such distinctions."

The Prince of Wales improved in personal beauty, as well as in mental acquirements; and was generally considered to be one of the most lovely children that had ever been seen, both in his form and in his countenance. Those who have had the opportunity of seeing him in the prime of his manhood, when Foreigners of high rank came from remote kingdoms to admire and study the elegance and correctness of his manners and conversation, will easily conceive this. A Lady of high rank, then in the habits of intimacy with the Royal Family, wrote the following Verses on the Prince's Fourth Birth-day:

Rosy-finger'd morn, arise,
All in robes ethereal bright;
With new blushes tinge the skies,
Shedding streams of heavenly light:
Sweeter than the dawn of spring
Smiles the radiant day I sing.

Phœbus, great effulgent pow'r,
In resplendent glory shine;
With fresh beauty paint each hour,
Glow with majesty divine:
Never, in the starry way,
Didst thou gild a brighter day.

Happy Prince! thy people hail
With new joy the rising morn;
Hark! I hear the joyful peal;
Hark! the joyful shouts return:
See where grateful Britons pay
Homage to the cheerful day.

Thee, our Prince, Thalia sings,
Lovely infant, Albion's joy;
Hark! she strikes the speaking strings,
Hark! the speaking strings reply:
Soft the silver sounds I hear,
Zephyrs breathe them to my ear!

Thus the Goddess—" Darling boy,
" Sweetest babe, Britannia's treasure,
" Smooth the laughing hours shall fly,
" Round thee wafting ev'ry pleasure;
" Whilst increasing years bestow,
" Joys that Monarchs seldom know.

" Ev'ry virtue in thy breast,
" Shall a peaceful shrine inherit;
" Ev'ry bliss by thee possest
" Shall reward thy rising merit;
" Ev'ry grace and flutt'ring love,
" Round thy blooming form shall rove.

" Ev'ry wish thy soul can form,
" Conquest, glory, shall attend thee;
" Fame thy glowing breast shall warm,
" And the Muses shall befriend thee:
" This Apollo's high behest.
" Clio now may sing the rest."

In the year 1767, the Queen made her Royal Husband a present, that had been almost annual since her marriage: she increased the number of arrows in his quiver, by making him the father of another Son. The great Officers of State, as usual, attended; and Her Majesty was soothed with the kind presence and affectionate assiduities of the King's Mother. These Ladies seemed to have formed the most tender regard for each other, and it continued without interruption or abatement as long as the Princess Dowager lived. It is not common in the domestic histories of families, even of Royal Families, to find the daughter-in-law a favourite; and it proves, therefore, extraordinary correctness, as well as a most amiable character, in the Queen, that it should have been so much the contrary in this instance. But it could not, indeed, have been otherwise; for, after she was established in England, she sought no advice beyond the bosom counsel of her Husband, except in the wisdom and experience of his Mother: she did

not form a circle of intimates for herself out of the many who were ready to commend every thing she did, and even to flatter her failings; she chose the few that she honoured with any share in her confidence, from the tried and approved friends of the Princess Dowager of Wales. But the Queen had very nice and correct feelings, with regard to female intimacies; as an instance will shew, which was stated to me by the Lady herself.

Her Majesty had been particularly kind and gracious one day to a Lady introduced by the Honourable Miss E——, who thanked her Patroness for it afterwards. "I thought it necessary," said the Queen, "to shew her some attention, because she is your friend."—"Madam," respectfully replied Miss E——, "she is not my friend; she is only an acquaintance."—"You distinguish rightly, my dear," answered the Queen, "and there is a great difference between the one and the other; but remember, if you should ever change your single state, that a married woman can have but one friend."—What a treasure of advice is to be found in these words!

The customary addresses were again poured in upon the Queen's happy delivery; but I shall notice that only which was presented to the King by the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of London. Though at that time very much out of humour with the Government, these worthy citizens could not omit doing justice to the high character of the Queen; of which they had now six years' experience: their mode of expression is stronger than on any former occasion; for they style her, in their Address, "*that most excellent Princess, the Queen.*"

The Marquis of Rockingham's administration of the Government was now in a state approaching to complete dissolution; deeply wounded, and severely bruised, by the constantly recurring blows of a powerful, vigilant, and active opposition. The

King, whose wish was to be, as far as consistently he could, associated and identified with his People, and with the respectable part of their advocates, sent for Mr. Pitt, to Buckingham House, to give his advice and assistance in an endeavour to unite, not *all the talents*, (for it is desirable, in this free country, that a great portion of talent should be in the Opposition,) but all the honesty, and the greater part of the talents, of the different parties, in administering and managing the public affairs with wisdom and ability. But the reiterated burden of Mr. Pitt's advice on the occasion, was *the great families, the great families;* and the interview proved fruitless. The Monarch, thus deserted by those who were able to serve him, but who would not serve without a grant of unlimited power, was again reduced to the necessity of bringing together a motley set of servants.

It is stated by a writer, cotemporary with these events, that, in the first seven years of the King's reign, there had been no less than two Lord Chancellors, four Lord Presidents, five Lord Keepers of the Privy Seal, and once the Seal in commission; thirteen other Lords of the Treasury, six Chancellors of the Exchequer, five Lord Chamberlains, two Vice-Chamberlains, three Grooms of the Stole, thirty-one different Lords of the Bedchamber, four Keepers of the Great Wardrobe, four Groom Porters, two Lord Stewards, five Comptrollers, five Treasurers, five Cofferers, twelve different Clerks of the Board of Green Cloth, three Treasurers of the Chamber, five Masters of the Horse, eleven Secretaries of State, seven First Lords of the Admiralty, twenty-three different Lords of the Admiralty, eight First Lords of Trade, eighteen different Lords of Trade, nine Postmasters, four Paymasters, three Treasurers of the Navy, three Secretaries at War, five Keepers of the Privy Seal of Scotland, and eight Vice-Treasurers of Ireland: a degree of fluc-

tuation, sufficient to distract even the most powerful mind; and I am fully convinced, that if it had not been for his religion, the consciousness of his duty to his Country, and the sustaining affection of his incomparable Wife, the King must have sunk under his accumulating trials.

An elegant Writer, speaking of this period of the Reign, thus expresses himself:

"At the King's accession, he found a large portion of his "subjects, conspicuous both for property and talents, ex- "cluded from all share in the Government; and by an affected "stigma, rendered incapable of enjoying confidence, or of "doing service to the Crown. He relieved them from this "proscription; and sought, by abolishing party, and national "distinctions, to reign *indeed*, King and Protector of *all his* "*people*. This measure, so wise in itself, was productive of "long-continued feuds and jealousies. Every introduction of "a new servant, or family, occasioned dissatisfaction and "disgust: the disappointed formed new parties, avowed new "principles, and laboured by every practicable device, to im- "pede and distress the operations of Government. Thus, "so many successive Ministries, who assumed the conduct of "public affairs, were all feeble and inefficient; while, for a "long time, no Opposition was strong or respectable. Every "leader of a party commanded his share of influence, which, "joined to the influence arising from ministerial situation, was "sufficient to procure a majority. But the Parliament itself, "delivered to so many opposite leaders, making laws in one "session, repealing them in the next; affirming a principle at "one period, and retracting it at another; lost much of the "respect and confidence which ought to flow from the People "to their Representatives.

"The King's benevolence was conspicuous in every act "which he performed or sanctioned. He found the Country "at war: it was the first wish of his heart to restore the "blessings of peace. In the pursuit of this object he made no "sacrifice of the national honour, but raised the glories of the "Country by a campaign of matchless vigour and success. "From this circumstance resulted much of the abuse and ob- "loquy thrown on the peace: the prosperous progress of the "British arms inspired exaggerated and extravagant hopes; "and many, who affected to deplore the miseries of war, de- "cried the peace, because it was not founded on principles,

" which would have furnished unanswerable motives for future
" aggression.

" Against the private life of the King, calumny itself could
" not discover an objection. Vice of every kind was not only
" unpractised, but discountenanced, at Court; and it was not
" possible to survey, without an accumulated sense of respect
" and admiration, the first Personage in the Realm, the most
" conspicuous in the performance of every social law, and the
" most attentive in the interesting centre of a domestic circle.

" Notwithstanding, however, his blameless life, and his
" constant endeavour to deserve the affections of his subjects,
" the King was far from happy. The increasing efforts of Op-
" position to stir up troubles in every part of his Dominions,
" and the success which attended those baleful and insidious
" endeavours, deprived him of a great portion of merited
" tranquillity. His firmness, fortunately, prevented him from
" relinquishing a mode of conduct which his judgment led him
" to adopt; but although he was enabled to break the firmly
" established phalanx, which, pretending to support the
" Throne, obscured its glories, he was obliged still to endure
" many painful struggles."

The King, too, had lost his Uncle, who negociated the last Administration, so that his difficulty was increased; because, in such cases, the Monarch himself cannot ask for service, and if he did, a refusal is little short of rebellion.

At length a compound Ministry was brought together, having the Duke of Grafton, nominally, at its head, a man of little talent, doubtful principles, and worse character; but, above all, most completely despised by the Public. Lord North, however, was the real Minister, who had accepted the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer: he was eldest son of the Earl of Guildford, and, being in his thirty-sixth year, was in full possession of his mental and personal vigour. Lord North's education had been begun at Eton, and was afterwards completed at Oxford, with great reputation for classical acquirements; his elegant taste, as a refined scholar, was eminent, throughout a life fully occupied with the most momentous concerns. During his foreign

travels, he applied himself laboriously to study the constitutions of those States and Governments which he visited; and thus his talents, erudition, and experience, fully qualified him for the high situation to which he was called. His abilities for debate had been shewn, and were universally acknowledged; but he had one quality in a high degree, which is not always to be found with the other requisites—his good humour never yielded, even to the most sarcastic provocations.

This Minister continued, for several years, to direct the affairs of Government, though with frequent changes of his coadjutors, and incessantly assailed by an inveterate and numerous Opposition. It is truly distressing, in reading the history of that period, to see how men, sometimes the great and good, could be hurried, by a thirst for power, into conduct even the direct contrary to what might have been expected from their principles. The King had, on these occasions, the further distress of finding the most determined and scurrilous opposition to his measures, from those to whom he had been the most kind and gracious. Even Mr. Pitt, on whom His Majesty had, without solicitation, bestowed a pension of three thousand pounds a year, and afterwards a peerage, generally attacked the King, in his speeches in the House of Lords, and sometimes in the most indecent manner. The remark which this judicious Monarch made to the Queen, on referring to one of these occurrences, has been related to me by a Lady who was present; and it proves both the correctness of his judgment, and his deep insight into human affairs. Her Majesty remarked on the statement she had just heard, "Sir, I think you have met with more ungrateful men than any other man that I know of."—"My dear," answered the King, "I am not surprised at it—I HAVE HAD MORE POWER THAN ANY OTHER, TO MAKE UNGRATEFUL MEN."

[illegible] Family [illegible] by the death of the Prince of Wales, mother to the King and seven [illegible] [illegible] by the death of his Sister. The Princess Louisa Anne [illegible] [illegible] The Funeral of the Prince was made the same as [illegible] as that of the Duke of Cumberland; but as the death of the Princess is the last of the kind I have had it recited in this work. I think it right to give the ceremonies that distinguished the interment for the sake of those who wish to compare it with subsequent processions. The following is the official account:

At two o'clock at night May 21, 1768, the corpse of her late Royal Highness the Princess Louisa Anne, which lying in state that day, in the Prince's Chamber, was privately interred in the Royal vault, in Henry the Seventh's Chapel.

The procession passed slowly, from the Prince's Chamber to the Abbey, where the Body was received by the Dean, who read the Funeral Service.

The minute-guns, at the Tower, began firing about nine o'clock; and St. Paul's bell, and those of most of the Churches in London and Westminster, tolled every minute, and continued till Her Royal Highness's Body was interred.

The supporters of the Pall were, Lady Godolphin, Lady Bunbury, Lady Masham, and Lady Edgcumbe. The Duchess of Manchester was Chief Mourner; and the Countesses of Litchfield, Plymouth, Coventry, Sussex, Harrington, Essex, Holdernesse, Scarborough, Oxford, and Pomfret, were Assistants to the Chief Mourner.

But the Queen's fruitfulness soon supplied this vacancy in the Royal Family; for on the eighth of November following, she was delivered of another Daughter, who was afterwards named Augusta Sophia. Yet the vicissitudes of human arrangements was exemplified, at this time, in the death of

the Earl of Holderness, who had been appointed Preceptor to the Prince of Wales and Prince Frederick; a nobleman most eminently qualified for the situation to which he had been appointed. Short, however, as his services had been, he had shewn so much zeal and ability in the discharge of them, that Their Majesties transferred the gratitude which they felt for the Earl, to his remaining wife and daughters. Of this the Queen gave a most interesting proof, when Lady Amelia D'Arcy was introduced to Her Majesty, through private permission, by her mother, the Countess of Holderness, on the eve of her marriage with the Marquis of Caermarthen, eldest son of the Duke of Leeds. The Queen, after speaking with her for some time with the tenderness and judgment of a kind and sensible mother, put a valuable ring on the young woman's finger, and said, "The best thing I can do for you is to give you my advice; and because it comes from *me*, you will, perhaps, remember it. Love your husband, and endeavour to make him feel that he has no associate so acceptable as yourself. Wear this ring constantly; and when you look upon it, let it recall to your recollection, and for your encouragement, what I tell you, that, since I have been married, my chief study, from getting up in the morning to lying down on my pillow at night, has been HOW TO MAKE THE KING HAPPY."

This advice would have been excellent from a mother interested in the welfare of her child; but coming from a gracious Sovereign, who gave the example with the precept, it might have been calculated to produce the most beneficial effects. Such, however, is the waywardness, the depravity of the human heart, that this excellent counsel passed off like the breezes of summer, that fan the bosom of a mountain lake without making any impression on its surface. Lady Amelia D'Arcy was married, dishonoured her husband,

was divorced, and entered into matrimonial union with a Mr. Byron, who was weak enough to think that a woman who could so easily be brought to forget and violate her first solemn pledge before God, would have a terror of his judgments on a second delinquency.—Oh! that I could persuade my countrymen to despise the female that shews even the slightest indication of a willingness to forget her sacred vows. Oh! that I could prevail on the fair daughters of Britain, blooming in beauty, and fragrant as the opening violets of the morning, to look at *the example set them by their* QUEEN! Then would they be directed in the sure way to the highest degree of human happiness, and then would THE ROYAL CHARLOTTE be commemorated by thousands of grateful hearts!

In the May but one next following, the Queen was delivered of another lovely Princess, who was named Elizabeth. The sweetness of temper, the benevolence, the accomplishments, of this Lady, when advanced to her maturity, will become the theme of gratifying panegyric in the subsequent parts of this work. The three Princesses manifested, at a very early period, those dispositions which characterised them when women. The Princess Royal was lofty in her notions, ever shewing a desire to command; the Princess Augusta could read while yet an infant, and applied incessantly to her books, drawing from them, and retaining, rich stores of knowledge; the Princess Elizabeth soon became a practitioner in the imitative arts, and they have since formed her chief pursuit.

I now feel it my duty to enter upon a digression, which, though not apparently connected with the principal object of this work, is, in various ways, interwoven with the Government, the People, and the Royal Family, of these Kingdoms. The events which I am about to record briefly, produced those results which led the King to throw himself into

the arms of his people, against the premeditated usurpation of an unlooked-for combination of great talents and *great families*; those events led, ultimately, to make the Sovereign of Great Britain King over seventy millions more of subjects than he could have looked to before. Whatever interests the King, must be supposed to affect his Consort; but some circumstances arose out of the events I have to state, that connected themselves, in the public opinion, particularly with the Queen.

The first establishment of Europeans on the Continent of India was as factors only, purchasing so much land as would serve to construct their warehouses, with a view to buy of, or interchange commodities with, the inhabitants. Out of these first establishments arose further negociations with the Princes of the country for tracts of land round the factories; first, for the purposes of free commerce, and then for the purposes of subsistence; and the purchase-money was always liberal, because the amount was invariably at the option of the seller. These Princes finding the new settlers becoming prosperous, considered them as the means of revenue, and, caring little for their former grants or engagements, frequently extorted new sums, by the threat of immediate expulsion from the country; and, after all, they harassed the trading transactions between the Europeans and the natives, oftentimes plundering both. On a principle of self preservation, therefore, the factories became forts; and, as the adventurers found capitalists at home ready to assist their views and speculations, these forts ultimately became fortresses, competent to protect the tenants against any hostile attacks.

The Indian Peninsula was now divided into many small independent states, which had been before but provinces of the great Mogul empire. The feeble government of the successors to the great

Emperor Aurenzebe, could neither resist the frequent invasions by which the country was continually devastated, nor enforce obedience in those who had been appointed governors of the provinces; so that every district of this once extensive sovereignty was become a distinct and separate power, under the absolute control of a Subahdar, Nabob, or Rajah. Such a dislocated state of affairs in any country, cannot but be favourable to the usurpations of any who have sense to contrive and boldness to execute.

The first scheme of territorial acquisition and sovereignty of Europeans in India was planned by the French, the most restless, as well as the most ambitious and intriguing people in the world. Dupleix, the governor of their settlement in that country, had contrived to accumulate a greater number of troops than could possibly be required for defence, and he put all his means into a state of activity, for the accomplishment of his plans. Sometimes he operated by force, sometimes by intrigue and negociation; and the disunited state of the country, which filled every head of a province with distrust and jealousy, greatly favoured his views.

These were at length fully accomplished, by the cession of Pondicherry, Masulipatam, and various provinces and islands; which made the French East India Company masters of the coast for the space of six hundred miles, and put them in possession of a tract of country more extensive than all the dominions their King possessed in Europe. These important acquisitions increasing the ambition and cupidity of the French, they meditated the monopoly of all the Indian commerce, and formed projects for the expulsion of the other European colonists.

But the acquisition of such extensive advantages by a power so active and perfidious as the French

could not be submitted to by other nations, who were equally interested in maintaining a share of influence in India, and who saw, with regret and terror, the progress of a scheme which tended to make the whole Mogul empire a dependency of France.

Hostilities soon commenced between the French and British forces, who concealed their real objects, under the pretence of supporting the cause of two rival Indian Princes. The war was carried on with uncommon vigour and with various success for six years, when it was interrupted by a proposal of accommodation, which produced no good result; and the flames of war again raged in India, till the English had deprived their adversary of every possession in that part of the world.

Many and great revolutions now took place amongst the native Princes, always hostile to the British settlers, and always encouraged, secretly, by emissaries of the French, who could still excite others to mischief, after they had lost the means of active exertion themselves. These combinations produced effects which might have proved fatal to our establishments in Bengal, had it not been for the vigilance, ability, and foresight of Colonel Clive, who was made a Peer for his services.

A long desultory warfare then commenced between two of the great native Princes, who contended for sovereignty, and in which the English were obliged to take part; but it terminated in the triumph of those measures which they considered requisite for their security, and in a very considerable accession of territory; so that the affairs of the English East India Company seemed more prosperous than ever.

But it could not be expected that a mere company of merchants should be permitted to hold a large and populous territory without alarm and danger; and the perfidious character of the Indians

was such, that they found their greatest peril to proceed from him whom they had most befriended and served. A severe contest ensued; and, notwithstanding the supineness and dishonesty of Mr. Vansittart, who governed for the Company, the refractory chief was subdued by the irresistible skill and bravery of British officers and soldiers; and the whole province of Bengal was reduced for the first time to English domination. In this state of Indian affairs, the proprietors at home felt very uneasy, and, after much discussion, Lord Clive was appointed and sent out immediately as Governor-general, to take charge of the Company's interests.

But he had much to encounter in this undertaking; for a new enemy was about to appear amongst the native Princes, who had been considered as a friend before. Lord Clive, on his arrival, began his arduous career, by putting an end to the peculations, extortion, and treasons of the Company's principal servants, while the army was active in its efforts to counteract and defeat the enemy; who, after experiencing many severe reverses of fortune, and displaying great elevation of mind, came and surrendered himself a prisoner to the British General, willing to receive such terms as the Company would grant him. Lord Clive granted peace immediately, reinstating the conquered Prince in his former dominions and honours; by which forbearance the alarms of the native governors, as to the views of the English, were laid asleep, at least for the present: and thus gloriously terminated a dangerous struggle, which gave present security, and brilliantly seducing prospects, to the Government of the British in India.

Lord Clive continued his exertions to correct abuses in the civil government and in the army, encountering always the most determined oppo-

sition, and bringing on himself the loquacious enmity of those whom he detected and cashiered, or exposed. He persevered, however; and having purified the civil departments, he entirely subdued a most dangerous mutiny in the Bengal army. He put into rigid execution the directions he had received from home, to prohibit any of the Company's civil servants from engaging in any matters of commerce; and he returned to England, suffering in health, and with his fortune considerably diminished, by his second visit to our Eastern possessions.

This Nobleman, on returning to the tranquillity of a private life in England, found the solitude too much for his mind; harassed, perhaps, with recollections of no pleasant kind, and dreading the uncertain results of a parliamentary inquiry into his conduct abroad. He put a period to his existence with a penknife, which his son had brought him as a present not many hours before.

I shall return to the consideration of our Indian possessions and their management, because it will tend to illustrate the conduct and character of the most accomplished and the most persecuted man this country can boast of having produced, and whose true worth appeared at the time to be known only to the King and Queen.

At this period His Majesty had assented to a Bill, at the solicitation of his Irish subjects, for fixing the durations of their Parliaments to eight years; which were before terminable only by an express order for dissolution, or on the demise of the Crown. At this period also two men came forwards into public notice, who shone, afterwards, like brilliant stars in the sometimes cloudy, and sometimes radiant hemisphere of British history, though neither of them lived long enough to see those days of triumphant splendour which have poured over the energies and counsels of this

country a radiance that has dazzled the world. These two eminent men were Edmund Burke and Charles James Fox. The first began and spent the greater part of his life in opposing the measures of Government, and finished his mortal career in a devotedness to the King's service: the other began his public life as a Minister of the Crown, changed sides, and continued, during the prime of his days, to oppose the Government and flatter the people. He died, at last, a Minister of the King he had so early deserted, overpowered unto death with finding the reins of Government too heavy for his strength.

Mr. Burke came over from the sister kingdom to make his fortune in this, either by his literary or political talents, but particular circumstances determined him to the latter; and, indeed, it was that for which he had very rare qualifications. He had prepared himself, in addition to that fluency of speech which belongs to his nation, with a choice of elegant well-selected words; and he had made himself master of the mysteries and practices of all sciences, arts, and trades; so that he could embellish his speeches in such a way as to enforce argument, or to hide the want of it. At the same time, his eloquence, whenever he thought the occasion required it, was of the most florid and poetical kind: yet his enthusiasm, while he spoke, carried him much beyond the bounds of deliberate judgment, and induced his friends to trust him very cautiously. One or two instances will serve to illustrate this character.

On the occasion of a state trial, in which an individual was accused of high crimes and misdemeanours before the most solemn tribunal this country knows, Mr. Burke was appointed one of the persons to conduct the impeachment. On a day, which was known for that on which Mr. Burke would display the whole of his oratorical powers,

Westminster Hall was crowded with Peers and Peeresses, Ladies and Gentlemen, to an immense multitude, notwithstanding that tickets of admission for that day could not be procured for fifteen or twenty guineas. Mr. Burke made an address to the Lords, the judges, for three hours, and concluded thus: "When I look round me, in this august assembly, and see all that is dignified in rank, all that is splendid in talent, all that is blooming in beauty, and then turn my eyes to the polluted miscreant at the bar, my soul sickens with horror at the awful contrast." As he uttered the last words, he dropt his head into his hands, which lay upon the table before him, as if to realize the sentiment he had just expressed. The gentleman accused was, in the end, acquitted of all blame.

In coming out of Westminster Hall after this violent effusion, Mr. Burke could not find his carriage; and the carriage of a certain Nobleman being drawn up, the Earl offered to set the orator down at his home. Mr. Burke was so elated with the impression that still remained in his mind of the fine speech he had made, that he could not help, during the short journey, asking the Nobleman what he thought of the charge, and of his manner of sustaining it? Common sense should have told him that, as the trial was not finished, and as his companion was to be one of the judges, his inquiry was indecent. However, Mr. Burke persisted in repeating his demands for the noble Lord's opinion; who, at length provoked to answer, said, "Why, Mr. Burke, all I can say at present is, that either you or the accused deserves to be hanged; but I can't tell which."

If any one should be inclined to object that I have gone improperly forward in stating these circumstances, I must recur to my former apology: There is no other way of treating a Memoir, to make

it interesting. Treated as a journal, it would extend to many volumes, and would be scarcely worth reading.

On the 5th of June, in the year 1771, the Queen was taken in labour at four o'clock in the morning; and the usual attendants being arrived, she was delivered before six of another fine boy, who was afterwards named Ernest Augustus.

In the following year, the King seemed to begin to experience some respite from his trials. The affairs of the Government were now conducted with more regularity, and a greater appearance of concord and firmness, than had hitherto been experienced since the first resignation of Mr. Pitt: the Minister, by the suavity of his manners, attached many friends, and tranquillized many opponents, while the increasing prosperity of the nation enabled him to hold out the most encouraging prospects. The unvarying health of the Queen, and the health and improvement of the Royal Children, concurred to make this period of His Majesty's life a season of enjoyment.

But the cheering sunshine was not destined to continue long; for, when the course of public affairs ceased to present objects of inquietude, the King unexpectedly met with causes of distress from members of his own Family. In the preceding summer, his brother, the Duke of Cumberland, was married privately to Mrs. Horton, a lady of great beauty, widow of Christopher Horton, Esq. of Cotton Hall, in the county of Derby, and daughter of Lord Irnham. When the marriage was publicly announced, His Majesty forbad them the Court. Yet this severe mark of displeasure did not prevent the Duke of Gloucester, shortly after, from acknowledging, as his Consort, the Countess Dowager of Waldegrave, whom he had married privately six years before. If beauty could have pleaded in extenuation, this case, also, would have furnished

arguments for the Royal Duke; but the King viewed the occasions very differently, and he felt what he owed to his station as a Sovereign.

These circumstances being known, a general expectation prevailed with the public, that a Bill would be brought into Parliament before the close of the Session, to regulate the future marriages of the Royal Family; and the expectation was not unfounded: for a message from the King on this subject was delivered to both Houses in the latter end of February; it is thus:

"GEORGE R.

"His Majesty being desirous, from paternal affection to his own Family, and anxious concern for the future welfare of his People, and the honour and dignity of his Crown, that the right of approving all marriages in the Royal Family (which has ever belonged to the King of this Realm as a matter of public concern) may be made effectual, recommends to both Houses of Parliament to take into their serious consideration, whether it may not be wise and expedient to supply the defect of the laws now in being; and by some new provision more effectually to guard the descendants of His late Majesty King George the Second (other than the issue of Princesses who have married, or may hereafter marry, into Foreign Families) from marrying without His Majesty's consent, or the consent of his heirs and successors, first obtained."

The proceedings of Parliament on this important subject began in the House of Peers; and I conceive it my duty, in the work I have undertaken, to state generally the arguments that were used, because it will fairly lay before the public the real situation of those members of the Royal Family who are reversionary expectants of the Crown.

The Peers began by asking the opinion of the judges how far, by the law of the land, the King is entrusted with the care and approbation of the marriages of the Royal Family, as was asserted in His Majesty's message? The opinion delivered

was, "That the care and approbation of the marriages of the children and grandchildren of the King, and the presumptive Heir to the Crown, (other than the issue of Foreign Families,) do belong to the King of this Realm; but to what other branches of the Royal Family such care and approbation do extend, the judges find not to be precisely determined."

A Bill was then brought in; of which this is the substance:

"THAT the Parliament, having taken the weighty matters contained in the King's message into consideration, and being sensible that marriages in the Royal Family are of the highest importance to the State, and that therefore the Kings of this Realm have therefore ever been entrusted with the care and approbation thereof, and being thoroughly convinced of the wisdom and expediency of what His Majesty has thought fit to recommend on the occasion;—

"Do enact, that no descendant of His Majesty King George the Second, male or female, (other than the issue of Princesses who have married, or may hereafter marry, into Foreign Families,) shall marry without previous consent of His Majesty, his heirs and successors; and that every marriage of such descendant, contracted without such consent, shall be null and void:—

"That any person assisting at the solemnization of such marriage, shall incur the penalties of the statue of *præmunire*:—

"That any of the Royal Family, being above the age of twenty-five, shall be at liberty to marry, without the King's consent, upon giving notice to the Privy Council of such intention, provided both Houses of Parliament do not expressly declare their disapprobation of such intended marriage before the expiration of twelve months."

The arguments favourable to this Bill are obvious, and may be comprised in a very few words: the dishonour reflected on the Crown by improper alliances; the great evils that have been formerly felt by the nation in consequence of the marriage of its Princes with subjects; and the evident defects of the laws in regard to this matter.

Various, however, and strong objections were urged against almost every part of the Act: those which embraced the subject as matter of precedent are of little moment, at this time; those that were brought against the principle of the Bill, are deserving attention.

It was objected, that as the line was too large which included the whole of the Royal Family, so the time of nonage was also extended without reason; that the age of twenty-one was the limit by the law of the land given to minority; that no cause could be assigned why that period should be lengthened in the case of the Royal Family; that the inconsistency was rendered more glaring by the existence of a law, which entrusts them at the age of twenty-one with the Regency of the Kingdom, a matter surely of equal importance with their marriage, and demanding, at least, equal maturity of judgment.

The liberty given by the Bill, it was said, further, to a Prince to marry at the age of twenty-six, upon notice given to the Privy Council, was nearly defeated by the proviso of the approbation of Parliament. Future Parliaments, it was added, were by this clause laid under considerable difficulties; their silence would imply a condemnation of the King's refusal; and their concurrence with such refusal would prove a perpetual bar to the marriage of the person concerned.

To prohibit a man, continued the opposers of the Bill, during his whole life, from contracting marriage, or, what is equivalent, to render his power of contracting such marriage dependent, not on his own choice, nor upon any fixed rule of law, but upon the arbitrary will of any man, or set of men, was an exertion of power not justifiable in any legislature. The liberty of marriage should be considered as a natural right inherent in mankind, a right that has been confirmed by divine institution,

a right that cannot be taken away by any laws that man can make. There is a total difference between regulating the mode of enjoying a right derived from nature, and assuming or granting a discretionary power which may tend entirely to annihilate it. Though, therefore, it was acknowledged to be reasonable and expedient, that the marriage of minors, as well as the exercise of all their other rights, should derive validity only from the consent of their parents or guardians, there is no power that ought to keep man or woman in a state of endless nonage, unless in the case of lunacy. It was also admitted, that the Legislature has a right to prescribe rules to marriage, as well as to every other species of contract; but it was insisted, that a power of imposing indefinite restraints on matrimony must be a manifest violation of the laws of nature, and could never be allowed in any civilised country.

This Act, it was farther urged, would, from this circumstance, tend to produce a disputed title to the Crown; for, at any conjuncture, where the succession may come to depend upon the force or invalidity of the power given by this Bill, an appeal made against it, especially if supported by the peculiar hardship of the case, could scarce fail to bring upon the nation all the miseries of a civil war.

It was also noticed, that the natural consequence of the restraint laid upon the marriages of the Royal Family, was to hurry them into libertinism and irregularity; a consequence that ought to be guarded against with the greater care, in proportion to the extensive and dangerous influence of their example on the lower ranks of society.

The friends of the Bill endeavoured to obviate the objections, by observing, that the right of the Kings of this Country, to the care of the marriages of the Royal Family, was proved by the best authority; that there appeared, from the form used in

the marriage articles of those Princesses who have been married into Foreign Families, where the King, it expressly says, "gives his sister, his cousin, &c. in marriage;" that instances could be produced where the Prince had even punished persons for assisting at the marriage of his more distant relations; that the laws in being were not, however, sufficient to prevent improper marriages in the Royal Family; that the marriage act which establishes rules for all other subjects, does not include the Princes of the Blood, in whose alliances the nation is most immediately interested; that the necessity of some regulation was indispensable; that it was nearly impossible to draw any line by which the purposes of the Bill could be answered; that the restriction proposed, confining the power to "the children and grandchildren of the King," together with "the presumptive Heir of the Crown," would appear particularly inadequate to the end, if it were supposed for a moment that the King were taken away by death. It was evident that the Prince who would succeed him, having neither children nor grandchildren, could have no authority over those marriages by which the honour of the Crown, and the happiness of the Nation, might be most sensibly affected; that cases might be supposed which would render any other restrictive line equally improper; that the evil which the Bill meant to guard against could only be prevented with certainty, by extending the authority of the Prince over the whole Royal Family; that the necessity of the King's concurrence would be considered rather as an honour than a grievance, by the families whose alliance it might effect. But if, at any future period, in consequence of an extraordinary increase in the descendants of King George the Second, any real inconvenience were found to result from this Bill, the Parliament would then be as ready to apply a remedy to the abuse of this

power in the Crown, as they were now willing to prevent the evils likely to arise from the want of it.

This important question was debated in both Houses of Parliament with much warmth, and with great force of argument, on both sides; but it was finally carried by a large majority.

But let us look at the characters of the two Princes whose conduct suggested the necessity of such an enactment: they had profited little by the shining example of their excellent brother. I intimated, in an early page of this work, I should have occasion to refer to the Duke of Cumberland again, though not to shew any improvement in his habits or proceedings.

There is, perhaps, nothing more striking or unaccountable in human nature, than the differences that appear at maturity in the characters of brothers, born of the same parents, and seemingly educated in the same manner; and it would puzzle the most speculative and enterprising inquirer into human nature to find any reasonable cause for the difference, in principles and conduct, between King George the Third and the Dukes of Gloucester and Cumberland.

The Duke of Gloucester had few accomplishments, and was weak in judgment: though a disposition to parsimony on some occasions made him cautious and slow in his decisions, yet he was not without some amiable qualities; he was serious, and inclined to be steady, like the King, and was constant in his attachments, though never displaying those high and strict principles which are to be found in superior minds. The conduct of this Prince towards Lady Waldegrave excited various conjectures at the time, in the public opinions and speculations. The best accounts thus state the circumstances: He had conceived a most violent and tender attachment for the Countess, and paid

her very frequent visits, without making any declaration of his sentiments; but the active tongue of public report soon began to mention these visits with hints and insinuations, which coming to the ears of her Ladyship's friends, they remonstrated with her on the evident impropriety of such an intercourse. This awakened her to a sense of what was due to her dignity, at the same time that it rendered her doubly cautious, lest any stain, however undeservedly, should be cast upon her hitherto spotless reputation. In consequence of this feeling, she and some of her nearest relations spoke to the Duke on the subject of his visits, strongly intimating the necessity of his declaring himself. If His Royal Highness was not already decided, this spirited manner of addressing him left the Prince no option. After a short pause, in which his violent passion got the better of every other consideration, he consented to an union with the Lady, and afterwards lived with her, though privately, yet correctly, and in a manner deserving commendation.

It is deeply to be regretted, that the history of the other Prince, up to the same period, cannot be expressed in so few words, or concluded with the same degree of panegyric. His extreme ignorance, even in the most common parts of literature, notwithstanding a princely education, could be equalled only by the levity, to use no harsher term, of his habits and proceedings. His seduction of Lady Grosvenor, and his cruelty afterwards in abandoning the unfortunate woman to the scorns of the world, displayed both his want of feeling and his deficiency of understanding: in the whole of this disgraceful transaction he seems to have been actuated by brutal passion, and by a low cunning, unworthy the character of a gentleman, and still more unworthy the character of a Prince.

The Duke's behaviour to another titled Lady was almost as reprehensible: he made her great

promises, such as a pension on the Irish establishment, and other gratuities from the Government, which he never had the power either to procure or bestow; and when she had weakly risked every thing that should be dear to a woman, in order to satisfy his lawless inclination, he left her to shame and disgrace, deriding her every where for the dishonour she had been so foolish as to bring upon her family.

But to enumerate the intrigues of such a Prince, or indeed of any Prince, is beneath the dignity of this work. His marriage, I conceive, was one of his worst transactions: he inveigled a very respectable Nobleman's daughter into a connection that would have been disgraceful to any woman, at a time that he was carrying on the most profligate intercourse with others. It is true, he could give this Lady a higher nominal rank than she enjoyed before, or than she could have obtained by any other means; but he could not give her that felicity which arises from an union of virtuous hearts; he could not give her that respectability which arises from being the wife of an honourable gentleman.

There are few families that have not some cause of permanent regret and painful reflection springing from their own members; and the Duke of Cumberland's disgraceful conduct was this canker to the feelings of his Royal relatives. Indeed, it may almost be said that he brought the grey hairs of his aged Mother with sorrow to the grave; for at this time, and in her fifty-fourth year, died suddenly the Princess Dowager of Wales. The tender attachment of the King for this his last parent had ever been evinced by the most respectful and affectionate assiduities; and there was nothing dearer to him in the world than his Mother, except his Wife. Such a loss would be felt severely by such a son; but the Queen also was deeply affected by this unexpected deprivation. She had been so long

accustomed to rely on the wisdom and experience of her excellent Mother-in-law, in many cases, that she almost began to feel a distrust of her own judgment without such assistance. The Royal Pair, however, turned more towards each other, and tried to find in their mutual and increasing affection a consolation for this loss.

This object of unfeigned regret to those who knew her well, had long been, also, an object of attack to the party writers of the time, who thought themselves entitled freely to attack whatever is royal, and who felt that they could not bear a superior. Such persons would be equally prompt with their virulent abuse, whether they were under the restraints of an Emperor, a Consul, a President, or a Justice of the Peace: control is what they abhor; and while any appointment is above them, they abuse and revile it, however sacred its institution, or however just its administrative proceeding.

This Princess, so beloved and regretted by her family, was now in a state far superior to mortal praise or blame, where the lying and malignant voice of faction could not reach her; and it was soon discovered and believed, that there never was a more amiable, a more innocent, or more benevolent Princess. That she interfered in the politics of the country, and influenced the King in the affairs of state, I am authorized to say was utterly void of foundation. This assertion may seem bold, after what has been again and again published to the contrary, with all the bitterness, and malevolence, and virulence, that party spirit could inspire. One proof alone, among many that might be given, shall be mentioned; and the rather, because to every unprejudiced mind it must carry conviction along with it. Her husband, Prince Frederick, died greatly indebted to many private persons for pecuniary assistance and other services. These obli-

gations she was well known to discharge to the utmost of her power out of her own income; an indication most indisputable of her disposition to serve them: and yet there is hardly a single instance of her procuring any thing for any of them from His Majesty; which, had she possessed the influence she was supposed to do, could not have been the case. She left no will; for she had nothing to bequeath, her charities having kept equal pace with her means of exerting them: much of which was so secretly dispensed, that it has been said no less than £10,000 yearly was bestowed on indigent families, who would now first discover the bounteous hand to which they were indebted. These acts of graciousness and benevolence were her first and chief concern. The only expense in which she indulged herself was her garden at Kew, which she enriched with a variety of rare and useful plants; and which is now considered as a real ornament to this Country. Though she constantly read all the public papers, till within a few days of her death, the unmerited abuse with which they frequently abounded, never excited in *her* the least emotion of anger or resentment; nor was she ever heard to speak in dispraise of any person whatever. She was steady in her friendships; and so indulgent a mistress to her servants, that she was ever anxious to give them as little trouble as possible. Her understanding was clear and solid; her temper ever serene and placid; and her religion real and unaffected, which enabled her to meet the king of terrors with a truly christian resignation. To the very last minute of her life she was sensible and composed, and gave evident signs of her satisfaction at the truly filial concern which Their Majesties discovered, and the great attention they paid her in her last extremity. Her Royal Highness exhibited a striking instance of the instability all sublunary happiness. In her time she

enjoyed the highest degree of felicity; and, like our excellent Queen, had been the happiest of wives and mothers. She was many years the very idol of the people of England; yet, without any blame on her part, she has been publicly and repeatedly traduced beyond all example: she was early deprived of the best of husbands; she had outlived several of her children; she had experienced the mortification of seeing one marry indiscreetly, another turn out completely profligate, a third languish and expire under the attacks of lingering disorder, a fourth degraded from the Royalty to which she married, and a prisoner in her own dominions under unfounded charges of a dishonourable nature.(*l*) Pressed down by this accumulation of misfortunes, and suffering under a bodily distemper, she piously looked up to heaven for relief, and was seasonably conveyed from the sorrows of this mortal state, to the bright mansions of everlasting life and blessedness, "where the wicked cease from troubling, and where the weary are at rest."

Amongst other particulars which ought to be remembered of this Lady, was her appointing, unsolicited, that ornament of human kind, Dr. Stephen Hales, to be her clerk of the closet; and upon his death, erecting at her own expense a monument to his memory in Westminster Abbey. She afterwards bestowed the same office on the celebrated Dr. Edward Young, author of Night Thoughts: so solicitous was Her Royal Highness to encourage talent and genius, where they were connected with piety.

In the difficult and distressing situation to which the King was brought by these complicated troubles, the affectionate Partner of his cares ventured, for the first time, to go farther than administering the soothing balm of conjugal tenderness; she tried to persuade him to soften his rigorous determi-

nations, in regard to the brothers who had married so imprudently, for Princes of the Blood Royal. But His Majesty was determined; and when he had made up his mind as to what it was right to do, there was no human power able to alter him.

The Queen was therefore compelled, as an obedient wife, to exclude the newly-made Royal Duchesses from Court; and, though the interdict was never taken off, she manifested particular kindness on every occasion to the children of Lady Waldegrave by her first marriage.

There was, however, one person connected with the events of this period, to whom the Queen did not extend the same lenient consideration—this was Miss ———, one of the Maids of Honour to Her Majesty. There was great reason to believe that this Lady, being sister to Lady Grosvenor, had assisted in passing letters privately from that Countess to her Royal paramour, the Duke of Cumberland. The Queen did not like to dismiss her, because she had no other suitable provision; but she would never afterwards consent to receive a message or service from her lips or from her hands; so that she continued in the Royal Household as a constant lesson to others of the displeasure and discredit which must attach to those who become, whatever the motive or inducement, the associates of dissolute persons in schemes of vice and depravity.

This just and wise procedure was necessary to the Queen's feelings, as a modest and correct woman; but it was of great importance to the sustaining her determination in keeping the society of the British Court as pure as possible. If she had relaxed in one point, she must also have relaxed in others; and even then there would be a point to stop at, which must restrict some. Her Majesty therefore, wisely kept to her first principle; and she gave, about this time, a very instructive rep

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brilliant circle which the Court had formed, I was led forward, and presented by Lord H—— to the King, the Lord Chamberlain assisting. When I made a motion to kneel, His Majesty took my hand, and very courteously saluted me, observing, with great politeness, afterwards, that he was much pleased with the taste of my dress. He then recommended me to Her Majesty, who graciously touched my hand, my gloves being purposely taken off, and then saluted me. The eyes of the whole circle were fixed upon me, whilst I was thus distinguished; and had it not been for the kind and benevolent regards which the King and Queen bestowed upon me, and in particular the looks and encouragement that I received from the Queen, who is goodness itself, I should have been terribly confused and distressed; but while I looked on this amiable Princess, I found myself relieved from every troublesome sensation. HIS MAJESTY IS CERTAINLY MORE FORTUNATE IN A CONSORT THAN ANY OTHER PRINCE UPON EARTH. These illustrious Personages appear so happy in each other, that it seems impossible for those about them not to partake, in some degree, of their felicity.

"I need not tell you, my dear Harriet, that the King is a fine figure, because I almost think I recollect that you have seen him: as to Her Majesty, she is extremely affable, and truly feminine; and if she cannot be said to be distinguished by a set of perfectly regular features, yet her countenance is strongly marked with an agreeable graciousness and condescension, difficult to be described; which, in my opinion, surpasses the beauty of mere symmetry or complexion.

"The Court was full and splendid, almost to a crowd, though the Drawing-room, as you have doubtless heard, is spacious and grand, as well as highly decorated. The whole effect of so many well-dressed persons, shining with gold, silver, and an abundance of jewels, could not fail to have an imposing effect on one whose experience before had not gone beyond the display of large private companies.

"I long to see you go through the same ceremony I have gone through to-day; and I am sure you will not fail to love and admire the King and Queen as well as I admire and love them."

The Queen having now what may be deemed a young family, prepared with the most affectionate assiduity, and with unwearied attention, to form the

minds of the elder ones. In this, her first object appears to have been the establishing great or general principles, that might be constantly referred to for direction or elucidation; and her next object, to shew them only what their understandings could easily perceive to be fairly deduced from those principles; so that they could readily trace the amount and nature of their acquirements, and were established in a habit of reasoning with simplicity and correctness. The early details or rudimental parts of education she superintended only, though it was with all the attention of a most anxious Mother, and she was most ably assisted by the abilities and indefatigable exertions of Lady Charlotte Finch; but in the higher parts, where the mind, after imbibing its first principles, is to be brought from an infantine state to maturity, accumulating knowledge as it advances, Her Majesty was the chief, or sole teacher: not that she under-rated the eminent powers of her highly accomplished coadjutor, but that she felt it was a most important and arduous duty, in which no one was so proper to bear the responsibility as a parent. The Queen's reading was very extensive, as well as very select, and her memory so retentive, that she might almost be said to have all the treasures of elegant and useful literature at her immediate command; and she had a most happy facility in drawing, from these rich stores, some striking illustration of the lesson of the moment, which served at the same time to open the eager mind of the pupil to the prospect of more important acquirements. I have heard Lady Charlotte Finch describe, with expressions of the highest admiration, the promptitude and judgment with which this excellent Mother contrived to suit these illustrations, these excitements, to the capacity or degree of advancement of each child, and always to have some important fact or principle indelibly impressed on the infant minds of the attentive listeners. It was always a moment

of extreme rejoicing, and ever looked to as a time of gratification, when the Queen came to take her part in the labours of instruction. But there were parts of education becoming persons of high station which she could not be expected to teach, and some that were only now becoming fashionable in this country; such as the practice of the imitative arts, and those others which had to form and give gracefulness to the person. For these therefore the most able auxiliaries were produced, and it is evident they found willing and assiduous pupils.

Though the Queen had never had favourable opportunities of becoming a successful practitioner in the elegant arts, she had that correct taste, and susceptibility for their productions, which will ever be found in a highly enlightened understanding. She was therefore fully prepared to judge of the progress made by her children. But there was one principle she constantly kept in mind, with reference to these subjects—that the study should go to the full extent of enabling her children afterwards to judge correctly of the performances of others, and to enjoy them; but no farther. She was perfectly convinced that persons of rank have many important duties to fulfil in society, and that, for such, it is better to pay the professors of any art for the high enjoyments their performances are qualified to give, than to bestow an unreasonable portion of time in trying, and after all perhaps unsuccessfully, to rival them.

It was a part of Her Majesty's system to mix religious instruction as much as possible with every other pursuit. This was done with the younger children by endeavouring to implant in their minds a love and fear of God, as a kind and never-ceasing benefactor; but also, as an all-seeing observer and judge. To the elder children she opened gradually the great truths of Christianity according to the principles of the English Church, of which she was a devoted member, and often read to them such

portions of the sermons of our most esteemed divines, as their minds were able to comprehend; and it was an invariable custom with Her Majesty to read a sermon to her collected family every Sunday, after the morning service of the Church.

An instance of the Queen's manner of giving instruction to her young children, is in my possession. Once, on her coming into their apartment, one of the Princesses, then very young, addressed her Mother, "Madam, I have just been reading this part of the Bible, (shewing the book in her hand,) but I cannot understand it."—"My dear," said the Queen, "the Bible is God's book; he lets people understand it in proportion as they love him. You understand some parts already, because God sees that you love him: remember those parts well; try to love God still more; and then, if you ask him with all your heart, he will let you understand the rest."

The King frequently joined in giving these instructions, and found a high degree of pleasure in explaining, or in enforcing them; for he loved his children, and his piety went even beyond that of the Queen. In the humble, yet confident hope of Christians, trusting to the efficacy of God's blessing, what might not such parents expect from the maturity of their children?

The Prince of Wales, and the young Bishop of Osnaburg, were also advancing in elegant and useful knowledge. They imbibed every thing proposed to them by their preceptors with great promptitude; and as their residence was at times transferred to town or country situations, advantage was always taken of local circumstances, to inculcate some important principle, that might assist them afterwards in understanding or rewarding the labours of others.

Mr. Arthur Young relates the following incident in the education of the Prince of Wales and his next

Brother; the Prince was about twelve years of age at the time:—"A spot of ground, in the garden at Kew, was dug by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and his brother Prince Frederick; who sowed it with wheat, attended the growth of their little crop, weeded, reaped, and harvested it, solely by themselves. They thrashed out the corn, and separated it from the chaff; and at this period of their labour were brought to reflect, from their own experience, on the various labours and attention of the husbandman and farmer. The Princes not only raised their own crop, but they also ground it; and having parted the bran from the meal, attended to the whole process of making it into bread, which, it may well be imagined, was eaten with no slight relish. The King and Queen partook of the philosophical repast; and beheld with pleasure the very amusements of their children rendered the source of useful knowledge."

And now, for the satisfaction and conviction of the reader, we will look at the degree of estimation in which the King and Queen were held by the Nation at this period of their history; and I will extract it from a writer who was far from being a general admirer of royal personages.

"George the Third, our present Sovereign, is a Prince eminent for his private virtues and accomplishments. He is pious, constant, and particularly susceptible of the impressions of love and friendship, which, being once rooted in his heart, no length of time, no train of accidents, can eradicate. Blest as he is with a sensible and virtuous Consort, and a numerous offspring, he is the best of husbands and the best of fathers: his filial duty has been so exemplary as to extort praise even from his adversaries.

"To all these virtues His Majesty joins a love of science, and is particularly attentive to improvements in mechanic arts. He is a patron of learning, a perfect judge of elegant literature, and would certainly be the Augustus of our age, if he had a Virgil to celebrate him."

In speaking of the Queen, the same popular writer thus expresses himself.

. . . .

"It is one thing to be *great* and another to be *good*, and therefore we should so much the more admire and value those characters in which we find goodness and greatness united, and embellished with the addition of all those mild and tender virtues that are inestimable even in the lowest stations of life, but are still more resplendent when emanating from a throne.

"Amongst all the female characters which do honour to this age, no one is so worthy of praise as Her present Majesty. Gracious, pious, generous, and affable, she is the joy of her Royal Consort, and the delight of all who know her. Distressed merit was never made known to her without being relieved; and vice and immorality never came within her cognizance, without meeting the reproof it deserved, and the height of her professed displeasure.

"Strict in the economy of her family, and in the care of the young Princes, whom she trains up in every virtue; mild and generous to her domestics, averse to every amusement that countenances levity, yet endowed with every mental and personal accomplishment that can adorn her sex; this Princess reigns unrivalled in the hearts of all her subjects, and deserves to be for ever remembered in the annals of this happy country."

I shall give these sorts of evidences from time to time, in the course of this Memoir, to shew that the virtue and incomparable excellencies of the Queen were ever acknowledged by the generous hearts of Englishmen: and what then will my living countrymen say if I should be obliged to state, in the end of my work, that when she had been permitted, for the benefit of the country, to shine with her brightness on a third generation, some profligate and unworthy sons of Britain have dared to take delight in throwing slanders on her spotless name? The angel that records it in his everlasting book, will bring it forwards against them, in that awful day, when no man shall be able to deny or conceal his intentions, and when the just shall be justified.

The wise and constitutional sentiments which the King caused to be instilled into the minds of his sons, in the view of their being at any time afterwards called upon to govern these Realms, was fully illustrated at a very early period. When Leicester House was nearly finished for the reception of the Prince of Wales and his bishop Brother, they went with their Governor one day to see what was doing, and were received with great attention by the workmen and by the populace. The Prince of Wales, highly excited in his feelings on the occasion, turned to his Governor, and said, " I see now, how foolish I was to be afraid of the people. They will do any thing, I am sure, for those who can gain their affections."

A further illustration of the King's character at this period, may be found in his command, that the Order of Poor Knights of Windsor should be required to attend divine service every Sunday at St. George's Chapel.

The Prince of Wales had now a separate establishment, and appeared at the Queen's Court for the first time in May, 1771, attended by the officers of his household. His Majesty at this time issued a recommendation to the different districts in London and Westminster, to raise local subscriptions for the relief of the poorer inhabitants, while provisions were so dear.

I am bound to record in this Memoir, extending to the Royal Family, as connected with the Queen, that at this time it was judged expedient to hold a Chapter of the Order of the Garter, for the purpose of installing the Prince of Wales and his Brother, and others also, who had been knighted but not installed. This splendid ceremony took place at Windsor, and will be highly interesting to the reader.

The Knights Companions in the full habit of the Order, the Officers of the Order in their

mantles, the Knights Elect in the under habit of the Order, having their caps and feathers in their hands, and the Proxies in their ordinary habit, attended the Sovereign in the Royal Apartment; the Officers of Arms in the Presence Chamber, the Prebends and Poor Knights in the Guard Chamber.

The Proxies not going in the Procession, retired before it began, to the chairs at the back of the altar.

About eleven o'clock the Procession began to move, being called over in the following order by Garter:

Poor Knights, two and two.
Prebends, two and two.
Officers of Arms, two and two.

The Knights elect, two and two, having their caps and feathers in their hands, viz.

Earl Gower.	Duke of Grafton.
Duke of Marlborough	Earl of Albemarle.
His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland.	His Royal Highness the Bishop of Osnaburg.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

The Knights Companions in their Order, viz.

Marquis of Rockingham.	Earl of Hartford.
Duke of Northumberland.	Duke of Montagu.

Duke of Newcastle.
Duke of Kingston.
His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester.

Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, with his Rod.	The Register, with the Book.	Garter King of Arms, with his Rod or Sceptre.

The Bishop of Salisbury.
Chancellor of the Order, with the Purse.
The Vice-Chamberlain.
The Sword of State, borne by the Duke of St. Alban's.
The SOVEREIGN, in the full habit of the Order, his train borne by two Dukes, eldest Sons, and the Master of the Robes.
The Band of Gentlemen Pensioners.

In this manner proceeding to the Chapel, they entered at the south door, passing down the south aisle, and up to the north aisle to the Chapter-House; the Poor Knights, Prebends, and Officers of Arms, dividing on either side for the Procession to pass; the Knights Elect retiring to the chairs in the aisle behind the altar; the Knights Companions, and the Officers of the Order, only entering into the Chapter-House with the Sovereign.

The Sovereign and Knights Companions being seated, Garter was commanded to introduce His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who was received at the Chapter-House door by the two junior Knights Companions, and conducted to the table, where the surcoat, girdle, and sword, had been placed; and Garter presenting the surcoat to the two senior Knights, they invested His Royal Highness therewith; the Chancellor reading the admonition.

Then Garter presented the girdle and sword, which were put on.

His Royal Highness the Bishop of Osnaburg, and His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, were then severally introduced, and invested in like manner.

Then the Proxy for His Serene Highness the Duke of Mecklenburg was introduced; and afterwards the Proxy for His Serene Highness the Prince of Brunswick.

Garter then introduced the Earl of Albemarle, who was received at the Chapter-House door by the two junior Knights Companions, and invested as before; the Register reading the admonition.

Then the Duke of Marlborough, the Duke of Grafton, and Earl Gower, were severally introduced and invested; as the Earl of Albemarle had been.

The Knights Elect continued in the Chapter-House while the Procession to the Chapel was made, and the atchievements of the deceased Knights were offered; the Procession passing down to the west end of the aisle, into the choir, in the following order:

First, the Poor Knights; who, coming into the choir, made their reverences all together, and placed themselves on each side near the altar.

The Prebends, making their reverences in like manner, went to their seats under the stalls.

The Officers of Arms, making their reverences, stood next the Poor Knights.

The Knights Companions, in the order they walked, made their reverences, and retired under the banners.

The Register, Garter, and Black Rod, made their reverences together, and stood before their form.

The Chancellor did the like.

The Sovereign made one reverence to the altar, and, being in his stall, repeated the same; the train-bearers standing upon the steps going up to the stall; the Sword of State, with the Vice-Chamberlain, on the steps, before or under the Sovereign's stall.

The two Prebends were conducted to the altar by the Verger.

Then Garter, with the usual reverences, taking up the banner of the late Duke of Cumberland, and holding it up, two Officers of Arms immediately joined; and, making their reverences, repaired to His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, and the Duke of Kingston, being the two senior Knights, who, thereupon joining, and making their reverences together, received the banner from Garter; and, being preceded by the two Heralds, advanced to the first step, or haut-pas, where they repeated their reverences; and, coming to the rails, made one to the altar; then kneeling, they delivered the banner to the Prebends, who placed it upright at the south end of the altar.

The sword was then delivered by Garter, and offered in like manner: and then the helm and crest; the Knights retiring under their banners.

The atchievements of the late Duke of York was offered in the same manner.

The swords of other deceased Knights, viz. the Duke of Dorset, Duke of Newcastle, Duke of Bedford, Earl Granville, Earl of Winchelsea, Duke

of Devonshire, and Earl Waldegrave, were then offered together, by the two next Knights in rotation.

Garter then summoned the Knights to ascend into their stalls.

All the Knights being in their stalls, the two seniors were summoned down to instal the Prince of Wales; and they proceeded to the Chapter-House, in the following order:—Poor Knights—Officers of Arms—The Register, Garter, and Black Rod, as before—The Chancellor—The two Knights. And from the Chapter-House, his Royal Highness was conducted to the Chapel, in the order as follows, viz.

Poor Knights.
Officers of Arms.
Garter, carrying on a cushion the mantle, hood, great collar, and book of statutes; having on his right hand the Register, and Black Rod on his left.
The Chancellor.
The two Knights, having His Royal Highness between them, in his surcoat and sword, carrying his cap and feather in his hand.

All entering the choir, with the usual reverences, Garter placed the cushion upon the desk.

The two Knights conducted His Royal Highness directly to his stall, (the Sovereign having dispensed with his taking the oath, by reason of his tender years,) and Garter delivering the mantle to the Knights, they invested the Prince therewith; the Chancellor reading the admonition.

Garter next presented the statute-book, which the Knights delivered to the Prince; and then placing the cap and feather on his head, they seated him in his stall; and the Prince rising up, made his double reverences; and the Knights, after embracing and congratulating His Royal Highness, descended, made their reverences, and went up into their stalls, and the Officers to their places.

His Royal Highness the Bishop of Osnaburg was then introduced, and installed by the two senior Knights, in the same manner as the Prince of Wales had been.

The two senior Knights likewise installed his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland; who, being introduced with the usual reverences, they entered into the lower stall, where the Register administered the oath to His Royal Highness, Black Rod holding the book.

Then the Knight conducted His Royal Highness into the upper stall; the Chancellor and Garter entering into the lower stall; the Register and Black Rod remaining in the area.

Garter then presented the mantle, hood, and collar, with which His Royal Highness was invested; the Chancellor reading the admonitions; and then the statute book was delivered; and he was installed with the same ceremony as before mentioned.

Then the two next Knights in seniority were summoned to instal Sir Charles Frederick, the Proxy for His Serene Highness the Duke of Mecklenburg; who was conducted into the lower stall, where the oath was administered to him, under the reservations stipulated: he was then conducted into the upper stall, and the mantle being presented by Garter, the Knights put it over his arm; so that the garter thereon appeared: he was then seated in the stall, as the Knights had been; and, during the rest of the ceremony, stood up, or leaned on the cushion; a Proxy not being allowed to sit in the stall.

Sir John Griffin Griffin, the Proxy for His Serene Highness the Prince of Brunswick, was then installed in the same manner.

The Earl of Albemarle was then brought in, and installed in the same manner as the Duke of Cumberland, except the attendance of the Chancellor, the Register pronouncing the admonition. In like manner the Duke of Marlborough, the Duke of Grafton, and Earl Gower, were severally introduced and installed.

Divine service then began; and at the words of the Offertory, "Let your light so shine," the organ playing, the Officers of the Wardrobe spread a carpet on the steps before the altar; and Black Rod, making his obeisances, went up to the rails of the altar on the right side, where he received from the Yeomen of the Wardrobe a rich carpet and cushion; which, with the assistance of the Yeomen, he laid down for the Sovereign to kneel upon.

In the mean time, Garter summoned the Knights from their stalls; and, being all under their banners,

The Sovereign, making one reverence to the altar, descended from his stall; and then, making another reverence, proceeded to the offering, in the following order:

Garter and the Register.
The Chancellor.
The Vice-Chamberlain, and the Sword of State.
The Sovereign; his train borne as before.

As the Procession passed, the Duke of Kingston, (being the senior Knight not of the Royal Family,) making his reverence, placed himself a little behind His Majesty on the right side; and coming against the stall of the Earl of Hertford, Lord Chamberlain, he came from under his banner, going a little behind the Sovereign on the left side. The Sovereign coming to the rails of the altar, Black Rod delivered the offering on his knee to the Duke of Kingston, who presented it to the Sovereign; and His Majesty, taking off his cap and kneeling, put the offering into the bason; then rising, His Majesty made his reverence to the altar, another in the middle of the choir, and, being in his stall, another; the Lord Chamberlain, and the Knights who delivered the offering, retiring under their banners when they came opposite to them.

During the Sovereign's return, the Officers of the Wardrobe removed the carpet and cushion whereon

His Majesty had kneeled, leaving the first carpet and two cushions for the Knights; and Black Rod returned to his place.

All the Knights then standing under their banners, two Officers of Arms joined with the usual reverences, then went to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who, thereupon making his reverences in the middle of the choir, was conducted to the altar, and made his offering; and, returning in the same order, went into his stall, where, making his reverence, he sat down.

Then the next Knight or Knights in seniority, being Companions, offered in like manner; and so on till all the Knights and Proxies had offered.

Divine service went on; and being ended,

Garter summoned the Knights under their banners, juniors first; which done, the Poor Knights made their reverences, and went out of the choir; then the Prebends, then the Officers of Arms, then the Knights, then the Officers of the Order, then the Sword of State, and the Sovereign as before; thus proceeding to the south-west door of the Chapel, and up the south aisle, out at the south door to the upper Castle; but the Proxies went in the procession no farther than the south door, where the mantles were delivered to the Sexton.

The drums and trumpets halted at the foot of the stairs; the Poor Knights fell off on either side in the Guard-Chamber; the Officers of Arms in the Presence-Chamber; the Knights Companions divided on either side above them; the Sovereign, having the Officers before him, went under the State, where he saluted the Knights, by pulling off his cap and feather, and then retired till dinner-time.

When the first service was placed on the table, a Procession was made to St. George's Hall, viz. the Officers of Arms—the Knights in their order—the Officers of the Order—the Sovereign.

The Officers of Arms divided at the lower end of the Hall, the Knights above them; the seniors uppermost, taking off their caps and feathers as the Sovereign passed; the Officers of the Order proceeding before the Sovereign to the haut-pas, and then going behind the Knights.

The Sovereign, being under his State, saluted the Knights; and their Royal Highnesses ascending the haut-pas, went to the ends of the tables; the Prince of Wales and the Bishop of Osnaburg on His Majesty's right hand, and the Duke of Gloucester and Duke of Cumberland on his left.

Grace being said by the Chancellor, the Sovereign sat down, and the Knights put on their caps and went to their places at the table; the two Proxies sitting below the Knights.

Then they took their respective places at the table; and towards the latter end of the first course, a cup being brought to the Sovereign by the Cupbearer, His Majesty commanded Garter to signify to the Knights that he drank to them. Whereupon the Knights standing up, uncovered, all together pledged the Sovereign, the trumpets sounding; and then sat down, and put on their caps.

The second course was then brought in, with the usual ceremony.

Immediately after, Garter, attended by all the Officers of Arms, advanced from the lower end of the Hall, with the usual reverences, to the haut-pas, and ascending the lowest steps, and crying "Larges" thrice, proclaimed the Sovereign's style in Latin, French, and English.

Garter then bowing to the Prince of Wales, His Royal Highness stood up, taking off his cap and feather; and Garter, crying "Larges" twice, proclaimed his style in English.

In like manner Garter proclaimed the styles of His Royal Highness the Bishop of Osnaburg, and His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland.

The Officers of Arms then retired backwards, with the usual reverences, till they came opposite to the Earl of Albemarle; who standing up uncovered, Garter, with one "Larges" proclaimed his style in English, and then the styles of the Duke of Marlborough, the Duke of Grafton, and Earl Gower.

Dinner being ended, the Knights placed themselves on either side at the upper end of the Hall; and grace being said by the Chancellor, and the Sovereign having washed, the Knights, all together, made their reverences to His Majesty, who put off his cap and saluted them.

Then the Knights and Officers returned to the Presence-Chamber, before the Sovereign, in the same order in which they had left it.

This grand ceremony brings to my mind some humorous and witty Verses, written by the celebrated Earl of Chesterfield, on the last installation of Knights of the Garter, which took place in the month of April, under King George the Second. They will not fail to amuse the reader.

VERSES ON THE LATE INSTALLATION.

As Anstis* was trotting away from the Chapter,
Extremely in drink, and extremely in rapture,
Scarce able his Bible and statutes to carry,
Up started the spectre of jolly King Harry.
As on march'd the nobles, he ey'd them all o'er;
When, seeing such Knights as he ne'er saw before,
With things on their shoulders, and things on their knees,
"Ha, ha!" cry'd the King, "What Companions are these?
"†Are they such from their colours who never have fled?
"Are they honestly born? Are they honestly bred?
"Have they honestly liv'd, without blame or disgrace?
"Odd's flesh! Master Garter, I like not their face."

* Garter, King of Arms.

† This alludes to the qualifications of the Knights, according to the statutes of the Order.

"Please your Grace," quoth the 'Squire, "how can we keep rules?
We must make *April Knights*, or else make *April fools*.
But, faith, of the first,* I can tell you no more,
Than that he's the son of the son of a wh—re.
The next,† who shall censure for lewdness of life?
Has no man but he hurt another man's wife?
His Cordon of France was a pitiful thing;
But England affords him a much finer string.
‡The third of these Knights, as he chang'd once before,
We have made him true blue, that he ne'er may change more:
And now 'cross his shoulders the collar is drawn,
That his Grace may have one thing he never can pawn.
That short bit of ribbon, for man never meant,
May serve little Portland—it serv'd little Kent;
Tho' stain'd and defil'd by that nasty old bug,
What tied an old monkey, may tie a young pug.
The times, Sire, are alter'd, and riches are all,
And honours!—folks now take them up as they fall:
They pay, like good fellows, the charge of their string;
The King saves his money, and—God save the King."

I have wished to preserve these Verses, they are so perfectly characteristic of the wit of the author; but the sarcasms they contain are, perhaps, not in all cases well founded.

A circumstance happened, soon after this event, which serves to shew the great reliance which almost every one had on the known and never-failing kindness and benevolence of the King and Queen. A woman, decently dressed, came to the Queen's house with a basket, and passed the porter, inquiring for one of the attendants. She went into one of the Offices, where she left the basket, and then went off through the avenues, which are somewhat intricate. A boy belonging to Her Majesty's household saw the woman lay the basket down, and, being curious, looked into it; when, under some green leaves, he found a fine male child about two months old. The boy, being much surprised,

* St. Alban's. † Duke of Kingston. ‡ Duke of Marlborough.

screamed very loudly; which alarmed several persons, and at length reached the ears of the King and Queen, who ordered the child to be brought to them; and, after viewing it for some time with feelings of great interest, His Majesty ordered that it should be sent to be nursed by some careful person, and should be named George. No one could tell which way the woman got out; and though a memorandum was found with the infant, its contents were known only to the Royal Pair, and were never afterwards divulged to another.

The reader, I am persuaded, will be at a loss which to admire most, the promptitude of the Royal benevolence, or the nobleness with which the King and Queen preserved the secret that had been confided to them.—It has been already, and will continue to be, my pleasing duty, to record the constantly recurring proofs of excelling virtue and goodness in this illustrious Couple; for it is the chief object of my writing.

I have stated before, that it was not my intention to give, however briefly, the events of that afflicting war which raged at this period, and which raged so long between Great Britain and her sons in the great Continent of America. They would be calculated to lacerate the bosom of sympathy with incurable wounds, and to harrow up the stoutest heart with regret and anguish. I should not touch upon even the distressing results of those events, but that one has been recorded by so respectable a person, and it serves so well to illustrate the never-ceasing benevolence of the Queen, that I do not think myself at liberty to reject it. It has been already published by the respectable gentleman himself; but I have taken pains to ascertain its truth, and I have been satisfied of it from a high source. The celebrated Dr. Lettsom gives it thus, as a matter of personal occurrence:

"It was my lot, (says the Doctor,) a few years ago,

to be attacked on the highway by a genteel-looking person, well mounted, who demanded my money; at the same time presenting a pistol to my breast. I requested him to remove it; which he instantly did. He appeared much agitated, from which I concluded that he was but a novice in this hazardous and iniquitous practice; and I instantly gave him the gold and silver I had about me, saying, I was sorry to see a young gentleman risk his life in a pursuit that must inevitably terminate at the gallows; that, at the best, the casual pittance obtained on the highway would afford but a very precarious subsistence; and that if I could serve him by any private assistance, more becoming his appearance, he might command my purse further: I then gave him my address card, adding, that if he thought proper to call upon me, he might confidently trust in my honour for his security. He accepted the card, but I could perceive his voice faltered; and though the night was dark, the agitation of his feelings was evident, as he leaned towards the door of my carriage to receive it. He thanked me, saying, he would certainly avail himself of my invitation; for the troubles in America had ruined his family. A few days after, a person called at my house, whom I instantly recognized to be the highwayman. "I come," said he, "to communicate to you a matter that nearly concerns me; and I trust to your honour to keep it inviolably." I desired him to be candid and sincere in telling me his circumstances, and to say how I could best serve him. The whole property of himself and his relations had, I found, been destroyed in the American contest; and, after suffering a long imprisonment, he escaped to England, where, his resources failing, and his pride being too great for him to beg, he rashly ventured on the highway, as the only alternative; in which mine was his second encounter. I took pains, though secretly, to inquire

into his history; and, finding it true, I used my best endeavours to serve him. The commissioners for relieving American sufferers would do nothing to assist him; and I therefore obtained for him the opportunity of stating his case, in a memorial, to the Queen. Her Majesty was struck with his appearance, pleased with his address, and so interested by the brief statement of his sufferings, that she promised him her patronage, if his case, on inquiry, appeared to be such as he described. The result was, that in a few days he received a commission in the army; and such were afterwards his gallant services to the Country in that profession, that his name was twice inserted in the Gazette, on gratuitous promotion."

Various branches of the family of William Penn sought refuge in this Country, from distresses of the same kind, though not equally afflictive; and experienced, as well as many others, the protection and benevolence of the King and Queen.

The King's Household at this period, as described by a contemporary writer, presents a very curious list of Officers and Services; which will be read with entertainment by those who have the opportunity to consult it. A specimen of it cannot but be interesting; and I subjoin it.

"GOVERNMENT OF THE KING'S HOUSEHOLD.

"The Dean of the Royal Chapel has the ecclesiastical government of the King's Court, and acknowledges no superior but His Majesty; for as the Palace is exempt from all inferior temporal jurisdiction, so is the Royal Chapel from all spiritual; it not being within the jurisdiction of any of the bishops, but a Regular peculiar is reserved for the visitation and immediate government of the King, who is, as it were, the supreme Ordinary over all England.

"The Dean chuses all the other Officers of the Chapel; which are, the Sub-Dean, eight Priests, the Confessor to the King's Household, who visits the sick, prepares and examines Communicants, and goes through many other duties

of the same kind; fifteen Gentlemen, who are called Clerks of the Chapel, and assist the Priests in the performance of divine service; a Master, who boards and teaches twelve Children; and several inferior Officers and Servants.

"Prayers are performed in the King's Chapel three times every day. His Majesty has also a private Oratory, where some of the Chaplains in Ordinary read divine service to the King on week days.

"The Lord Almoner disposes of the King's alms; and has the privilege of giving the first dish at dinner that is set upon the King's table; or, instead of it, four-pence per day. He also distributes to twenty-four poor men, nominated by the parishioners of the parish adjacent to the King's Palace of residence, four-pence in money to each, with a two-penny loaf and a gallon of beer; or, in lieu of the beer and bread, three-pence in money; to be distributed amongst them every morning at seven o'clock.

"The King has likewise a Clerk of the Closet, who is one of the dignified Clergy, and who attends at His Majesty's right-hand during divine service, in order to resolve his religious doubts; and also to wait upon the King in his private Closet.

"His Majesty has forty-eight Chaplains in Ordinary, who are generally Doctors of Divinity, and have a salary of £.41 10s. a year each. Four of these attend every month, to preach before the King on Sundays, and other festivals; and in the morning, on Sundays, before the Household. They are daily to read divine service twice to the King, in his private Oratory; and to give thanks at table in the Clerk of the Closet's absence.

"There are also twenty-four Chaplains at Whitehall, who are Fellows of Colleges; twelve of whom are chosen out of each University, and have £.70 a year each, for preaching one month in the year.

"The best preachers are appointed by the Lord Chamberlain; but on Ash-Wednesday morning, the sermon is preached by the Dean of the Chapel; and every Wednesday after, by one of His Majesty's Chaplains: every Friday, it is preached by the Dean of some cathedral or collegiate church; and on Good Friday, the Dean of Westminster always preaches. One of the Bishops preaches every Sunday in Lent; on Palm-Sunday, an Archbishop; and upon Easter-Sunday, the Lord Almoner.

"On the twelve days in the year, accounted high festivals and collar days, His Majesty, after divine service, being

attended by the principal Nobility, adorned with their collars of the Garter, and by the Heralds, walks up to the altar, and offers a sum in gold, which is received by the Dean of this Chapel, and distributed to the poor. These twelve days are, Christmas-day, Easter-day, Whitsunday, and All-Saints'-day, which are called household days; then New-Year's-day, and Twelfth-day, upon the latter of which, a small quantity of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, in several purses, are offered by the King: the other days are Candlemas, Annunciation, Ascension, Trinity-Sunday, St. John Baptist, and Michaelmas-day, when gold only is offered. Upon Christmas-day, Easter-day, and Whitsunday, His Majesty usually receives the Holy Sacrament; when only two or three of the principal Bishops, and the members of the Royal Family, communicate with him.

"The gold offered by the King on these occasions at the altar, is called the *Byzant*, from a piece of gold supposed to have been coined by the Emperors of Constantinople, which city was first called Byzantium. Those offered by James the First, had, on one side, the King kneeling before an altar, with four crowns before him, and with this motto, *Quid retribuam Domino pro omnibus quæ tribuit mihi?* that is, 'What shall I render unto the Lord for all his goodness to me?' And on the other side, a lion lying down by a lamb; with this motto, *Cor contritum et humilitatum non despicies, Deus;* that is, 'An humble and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.'" (m)

The remainder of this curious document I omit; but that which I have given will serve to shew how great part of the time of a conscientious King must be occupied in this Country; and that our present Monarch has ever been known as a conscientious Christian, I need not endeavour to shew. The wonder then will be, how he could also find time for his duties in the civil and military government of the Country, for giving public audiences, for shewing his cordial patronage of literature and arts, and for enjoying the society of his Family. The King's stock of reading was very extensive at an early period of his life, and he was constantly

(m) The remainder of this document will be given in the Appendix.

adding to it; but he contrived to accomplish this on his journeys, rapid as they always were, from Windsor, Richmond, or Kew, to London, and back: at which times he was able to abstract himself so entirely, as to read and retain the most abstruse and difficult writings. It was during one of these little journeys that the King read Dr. Horsley's work, exposing the fallacious arguments, and detecting the ignorant or wilful mistranslations, of Dr. Priestley, in his attacks on the Christian church. His Majesty's learning, as well as his piety, enabled him duly to appreciate this work; and Dr. Horsley was soon afterwards made a bishop.—It is my duty to observe here, that in the religious observances enjoined by the arrangements of the Royal Household, the Queen was always an associate with the King, unless when he acted in his public capacity.

That His Majesty was enabled to go through so many duties, was greatly owing to his regular method of dividing his time, as appeared evident to all who had the opportunity of observing him; but to this he added a never-failing punctuality in all appointments, and an unceasing alacrity and perseverance in what he had to do. A circumstance took place at this time which is truly illustrative of the point. The King, difficult as he found it to quit his domestic comforts, felt it as his imperious duty to visit all the Royal Dock-Yards in the Kingdom, not only to shew the sincere regard which he had for our naval heroes and defenders, but in order to be able to judge, by personal inspection, of the manner in which those important establishments were conducted and governed.

Early in the morning of the 22nd of June, His Majesty set off from Kew for Portsmouth. As the King approached the town, he was cheered with the acclamations of immense crowds of rejoicing spectators, who thronged the road on both sides;

and of whom great numbers had come from very remote parts of the Kingdom, and even from abroad, to witness this interesting scene. The journey of more than seventy miles had been performed with such rapidity, that he arrived at the Portsea-bridge before eleven o'clock the same morning, under a royal salute of twenty-one guns. His Majesty then proceeded to the first barrier, where Major-General Parker, who commanded the garrison during the Royal stay at Portsmouth, presented the keys of the place; which were immediately returned to him, with a very gracious remark on his services and his fidelity. On the King's entering the Land-port Gate, he was saluted again by two hundred and thirty-two pieces of cannon, mounted on the ramparts of the town, at Blockhouse-Fort, and at Southsea-Castle.

His Majesty proceeded through the town, out at the Water-Gate to the Dock-Yard, and arrived at the Commissioner's House at eleven o'clock; where he was received by the President of the Privy-Council, the Lord Privy Seal, the Lord Chamberlain, the first Lord of the Treasury, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the Secretaries of State, the Treasurer of the Navy, the three Admirals of the Squadron at Spithead, and the Master and Lieutenant-General of the Ordnance. The artificers and workmen belonging to the Yard, being all assembled before the house, gave three cheers, as His Majesty entered, and then returned to their several employments. This had been done at the King's particular desire; for though as a Sovereign he judged it necessary to have all his great Officers of State about him on public occasions, yet his chief delight was in seeing, as far as possible, the great body of his subjects of the lower classes.

After taking some slight refreshment, he went to the Governor's house, in the town, attended by the

Nobility and persons of distinction, and held a public Levee; at which a great number of the Officers of the Army and Navy were present, as well as many Gentlemen of the county. The Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the town, were introduced, and presented a congratulatory address, expressing great joy to have the honour of receiving their King, and in finding that he took such paternal care of the invincible bulwarks of our national glory. They were received with much kindness and favour, and the Mayor was knighted.

When the Levee was over, His Majesty returned to the Dock-Yard; and at half an hour after one embarked in a Barge, in which the Royal Standard was immediately hoisted. The Earl of Sandwich, First Lord of the Admiralty, the Earl of Delawar, Gold-stick, and one of the Lords of the Bedchamber in Waiting, embarked in the same boat with the King. He then proceeded to Spithead, followed by the Barge of the Board of Admiralty, the three Admirals, and all the Captains of the Fleet, in their barges. Besides these, there was an inconceivable number of barges, boats, and pleasure-vessels, almost covering the surface of the water, filled with well-dressed people; who hailed and cheered the Royal Visitor, as he passed along, with the most heartfelt congratulations. The Garrison also saluted, with twenty-one guns each, from Southsea-Castle, Blockhouse-Fort, and from the Saluting Battery.

When the Royal Standard was seen at Spithead by the Fleet, which consisted of twenty ships of the line, besides frigates and sloops, moored in two lines abreast of each other, the whole manned ship, and saluted with more than five hundred discharges of artillery.

The King went on board the Barfleur of 90 guns, where he was received by the Board of Admiralty; and as soon as he had passed the

guard of Marines on the quarter-deck, the Flag of the Lord High-Admiral, which was then flying, was struck, and the Royal Standard hoisted at the main topmast-head, and the Union Flag at the mizzen topmast-head; at sight of which all the ships, except the Barfleur, fired twenty-one guns each. The ship being cleared, the same as for action, and the officers and men at their respective quarters, His Majesty, (after the Nobility who came off upon this occasion, and the Flag Officers, had paid their duty to him on the quarter-deck,) walked fore and aft on the lower gun-decks, examining every part.

At half an hour after three, the King sat down to a table of thirty covers; at which many of the Nobility, and persons of distinction, as well as Officers of the Navy and of the Army, bearing the rank of Colonel and upward, were admitted to the honour of partaking. After dinner, on the Queen's health being drunk, the whole Fleet saluted with twenty-one guns; and upon His Majesty's retiring from table, his health was drunk, and saluted by the fleet in the same manner. This was repeated every day, while the Royal Visitor continued at Portsmouth.

At six o'clock, the King went into his Barge, attended by the Board of Admiralty, the Flag Officers and Captains, in the order in which they came, and passed along both lines of ships; each ship being again manned, giving three cheers, and saluting separately with twenty-one guns, as the Royal Barge was passing.

His Majesty then went on board the Augusta Yacht, where he was again received by the Board of Admiralty. The Royal Standard, with the Lord High-Admiral's Flag and the Union Flag, were immediately hoisted, as on board the Barfleur; and the King sailed into the harbour, saluted as on his coming out, and the Admirals and Captains

attending him to the harbour's mouth; after which they returned to their respective ships. His Majesty landed at Dock at a quarter before nine, and proceeded to the Commissioner's house, which had been appointed for his residence.

At eight o'clock next morning, this indefatigable Monarch began viewing the Dock-Yard, the Ships building and repairing, and the Magazines. At eleven he went into his Barge, attended by the Commissioners of the Admiralty and Navy in their barges, and several of the Nobility in others, and proceeded up the harbour, to view the ships lying in ordinary. He went on board three of them, the Britannia, of 100 guns, the Royal William, and the Defiance; and at half past two went off to dine on board the Barfleur, at Spithead, attended as before.

At six in the afternoon, the King left the Barfleur, and went on board the Augusta Yacht, sailing along to view the Isle of Wight; from the shores of which he was greeted with cheers by nearly the whole population of the island: and having gone as far as St. Helen's, the Yacht stood in for the harbour; but it falling calm, His Majesty was obliged to be rowed ashore in the Barge, and arrived at the Commissioner's house at half past nine o'clock.

On the 24th, the following morning, His Majesty went at six o'clock to the Gun-Wharf; where he was received by the Master-General of the Ordnance, the Lieutenant-General, and all the Officers of the department, and minutely viewed, inquired into, and examined, every thing relating to the artillery-stores and magazines of all kinds. He returned to the Dock-Yard at seven, and viewed such parts of the yard, magazines, and works carrying on, as he had not seen before. At half an hour after ten, His Majesty, attended as before by the Nobility, and Commissioners of the Admiralty and Navy, went in his Barge on board the Venus

a frigate of 36 guns, lying in ordinary; and from thence to Weovil, where he was received by Captain Pitt, one of the Commissioners for victualling the Navy, and the Officers of that department, a Royal salute being given from the lines of Gosport; and having examined the brewery, cooperage, and magazines, he returned to Dock. After he had changed his dress, he went to the Governor's house, and held a public Levee; and at two o'clock, His Majesty went off to dine on board the Barfleur, as on the former days.

Vice-Admiral Pye having, in pursuance of the King's pleasure, been just promoted to the rank of Admiral of the Blue, kissed His Majesty's hand on the quarter-deck; and immediately hoisting his flag on board the Royal Oak, was, by the King's permission, saluted by all the ships except the Barfleur. The Vice-Admiral, in acknowledgment of the honour conferred upon him, saluted the Royal Standard with all the guns of his ship. His Majesty took this opportunity of conferring the honour of Knighthood on several Officers, whose merits and services he esteemed; in order that this public display of his attention to the Navy, might encourage others to future exertion.

At half after five, the King left the Barfleur, on board the Yacht, attended as usual; and, having sailed through part of the line of ships, stood into the harbour, and landed at Dock at half past seven; the attendance and saluting being as usual.

On the following day, the King left the Dock-Yard at half after five in the morning, to view the new works and fortifications at Portsmouth, beginning from the furthest part of the Common, and going round to the saluting platforms. At seven His Majesty returned to the Dock, embarked immediately in his Yacht, and sailed out of the harbour; the fortifications saluting as he passed. When the Royal Yacht arrived at Spithead, Lord

Edgecombe, Vice-Admiral of the Blue, with his division, got under sail, and followed His Majesty. When the Yacht and Men of War had passed the buoys, the Vice-Admiral came on board; and having, by command, been appointed to Vice-Admiral of the White, had the honour to kiss His Majesty's hand under the Royal Standard; and then, by permission, received a salute from all the ships on the station. The Royal Visitor then proceeded round the Isle of Wight, as far as Sandown Bay, and received a salute from the Fort; when the wind freshening, and the tide being spent, the Yacht, with the Vice-Admiral's division, returned to St. Helen's, and anchored. A little before five o'clock, the Yacht got under weigh, and the wind still blowing fresh, worked up to Spithead, leaving the Vice-Admiral, and his division, to proceed to Plymouth, according to the orders he had received. After the King had sailed along the line of ships remaining, he stood towards the harbour, and came to an anchor half a mile within Southsea Castle, where he was attended by the Admiral, the Rear-Admiral, and all the Captains and Lieutenants of the Fleet; whom he received with great kindness, taking notice of, and distinguishing, as was his custom, every individual. While the Yacht was at anchor, the ramparts of the town being lined with land-forces and marines, a *feu de joye* was fired at ten o'clock, by a triple discharge of cannons and musquetry all round the works; immediately after which the Yacht weighed, proceeded into the harbour, and safely landed the King before eleven o'clock.

His Majesty, in the course of this day, had knighted some Officers, and promoted others, in a way that gave universal satisfaction and encouragement: he was received with enthusiastic cheers wherever he passed; and a great number of sailing-boats and barges, full of Noblemen and Ladies,

followed his course while he was on board. The shores, both on the Portsmouth and Gosport sides, were lined by an incredible number of people, who all expressed their loyalty and duty to the King, by guns, acclamations, and other demonstrations of joy. The houses, both in the town of Portsmouth and on the Common, were most brilliantly illuminated every night during the King's stay.

His Majesty was highly gratified and delighted with what he had seen; with the good order and discipline of the Fleet; with the excellent condition of the Dock-yard, Arsenal, and Garrison; as well as with the regularity and good management that appeared in every department: the loyalty and affection evinced towards him by all classes of persons, seemed to penetrate his heart, and greatly to increase his other gratifications. To testify, as far as possible, these feelings, the King ordered two thousand guineas to be distributed thus: £1500 to the artificers, workmen, and labourers, in the Dock-yard, Victualling-office, and Gun-wharf; to the companies of the Barfleur, and the Augusta Yacht, and the crew of his own Barge, £350; to the poor of Portsmouth, Gosport, and Portsea, £250. His Majesty also made several smaller gratuities; and released the prisoners confined in Portsmouth gaol for debt. He then set off, at seven o'clock in the morning of the twenty-sixth, on his return to Kew; being saluted on his going out, the same as on his entrance into Portsmouth, by the thundering of cannon, and by the still louder and heart-gladdening acclamations of many thousands of gratified spectators. But these demonstrations of duteous love were not confined to Portsmouth and its vicinity. At Godalming, a band of music, accompanied by the voices of all the inhabitants, played "God save the King," all the way through the town. At Guilford, the street

was lined with the inhabitants; and the the neighbourhood saluted with the colou ing to the town. Indeed, throughout the this journey, His Majesty was received most lively expressions of joy and affec arrived at his Palace of Kew at two o'cloc travelled more than seventy miles in seve What a lesson of useful instruction is offe by the manner in which this active and kind Father of his people, spent t days!

The Queen continued to give evident her affectionate love to this excellent Hus blessing him almost every year with a child. In January, 1773, she gave birth afterwards named Augustus Frederick; 1776, the interesting Princess Mary was b in 1777, the Princess Augusta Sophia wa the Royal Family.

During these family occurrences, in th and even up to the year 1780, no even importance to the Royal House took p therefore, what I shall offer to the read interval, will be such circumstances a illustrate and prove the influence of roya on public manners; or instructive anec cerning those who were shining ornament brated visitors at the King's Levees, Queen's Drawing Rooms.

Britain has ever been celebrated as rium of female beauty; but the influe Majesty's conversation and example h time, added another charm to its for tions—the invaluable charm of modest

"That would be woo'd, and not unsough

It has been remarked, on this gentleman who had travelled through

Europe, and into many parts of Asia, that in the course of his researches he had met sometimes, and even frequently, with beautiful women; one excelling in grace, another in symmetry, a third in complexion, a fourth in animated expression; but, that in England, and particularly at the English Court, he had found all these qualities united, and, as it were, set round with that irresistible attraction which arises from timid, retiring delicacy, and the evident indication of souls within the enchanting forms. One of our lyric poets, in an Ode dedicated to the Ladies of the British Isles, has expressed singular sentiments. I will give an extract from this work.

These eyes have stray'd o'er beauty's ample round,
In panting expectation pleas'd to roam
Through Asia's climes, where graceful forms abound;
Through Italy, where charms entice
By giving pleasure's name to vice;
Through France, where ev'ry flippant tongue
With unfelt sentiment is hung.
All these your bard has view'd,
Nor found one thought of love intrude,
And disappointed, panting hasten'd home.

The eyes that "fringed curtains" deck,
The polish'd brow, the blushing cheek,
The dimpled mouth, the tow'ring neck,
And, ah! those forms I dare not speak,—
All these, ye British Fair, to you belong:
But sure, if these alone
Were all the charms that in you shone,
They ne'er had claim'd your humble poet's song.
No; in your pure unsullied mind,
Sits virgin modesty enshrin'd,
And sentiment, to reason true,
That guides the heart, and warms it too.
These, these, beyond all other fair ye boast;
And those who know ye most,
With patriot zeal, shall proud your praise proclaim,
Angelic spirits in a matchless frame.

Amongst the distinguished beauties who shone resplendent at this period, the Countess of Waldegrave stood first in celebrity; because, to all the advantages of form, complexion, and manner, she added correctness of deportment. Her marriage with the Duke of Gloucester, however, by provoking the King's displeasure upon both, deprived the Court of this brilliant star. A poet of that period thus describes her.

> In beauty's ranks 'twas Glo'ster's part to please,
> Her form so 'witching, blending grace with ease:
> The pow'rs of love beheld her crowd of charms,
> And judg'd her worthy e'en of Royal arms.

The Duchess of Ancaster was so exceedingly beautiful, that the engravings from pictures of her, are now purchased by artists as models to study from. Her kindness of heart, and her love for the Queen, exposed her, however, to the attacks of the scurrilous writers of the day; who found, as a defect in her character, that she had once condescended to sit down at dinner with Madam Swellenburg, the person who had nursed the Queen, and who, therefore, preserved a great portion of Her Majesty's regard and affection: but those who knew her Grace, speak of her as possessing, besides her natural beauty, many virtues, and almost every accomplishment of the time.

Lady Isabella Sefton, was another of the dazzling beauties of this period. She is described as being a lady of almost unrivalled perfections, both in person and mind. The Houses of Harrington and Grafton had just reason to be proud of the estimation that followed this admired lady.

Lady Almeria Carpenter, daughter of Lord Tyrconnel, shone like a radiant constellation in this hemisphere of beauty. The beauty of English ladies had long been unrivalled; but in this, and

some other instances, ladies of the sister kingdom, the fair daughters of the green lands of Erin, came forward to dispute with them the myrtle crown of imperial beauty. The character of this excellent and lovely lady was such, that the poet might almost be supposed to write, in contemplation of such an individual,

> "Angels are painted fair to look like you,
> Amazing brightness, purity, and truth."

Lady Townshend, also, was not more admired for her beauty, than for her virtues. This lady, with her two lovely sisters, the Misses Montgomery, were familiarly called in the Court circles, the *Irish Graces*. Many persons were surprised that Lord Townshend should venture, in his fifty-third year, to marry so young and beautiful a lady; but his judgment and penetration were fully evinced, in the correct and virtuous conduct of his wife.

This lady, and her sisters, gave occasion for the first display of the pictorial powers of Sir Joshua Reynolds, president of the Royal Academy. He painted the three sisters as employed in ornamenting a statue of Hymen with wreaths of flowers; and such was the effect of his production, that many were inclined to doubt if any thing so lovely had ever been seen in the world; while those who had the opportunity of approaching the living originals, wondered that art could come so near in its representations of perfect nature.

But the influence of the Queen, in correcting and refining the conversation and manners of the Court, and of the people, was assisted at this time by a powerful co-operation from a quarter of much less legitimate character. The Letters of the celebrated Lord Chesterfield to his Son, were become an object of general reading; and as their great principle was to substitute duplicity for the careless display of pro-

fligate vice, they served to assist a scheme of public decorum, while they left the heart to all its licentious inclinations; and made vice less dangerous, because not so easy of detection and exposure. If any man had sat down with the diabolical intention of endeavouring to extend the power of evil in the civilized world, he could not have devised a plan more likely to answer the purpose, than that contained in Lord Chesterfield's Letters. It is said by his defenders, (for even the worst of men may, and will, find advocates,) that these Letters were not written for publication, but for the private instruction of his son. And are we, then, to look upon it as any mitigation of a man's depravity, that instead of scattering about his poison promiscuously in the world, he selects his own son's bosom as a fit depository for the deadly, soul-destroying mass? But the Providence, which graciously overlooks man's destiny, prevented this terrible consummation. Lord Chesterfield had all the powers in himself, requisite to perform in his proceedings, every thing that he wished his son to do: he was handsome, well-formed, highly educated, and was besides, what is very rarely to be met with, extremely eloquent, and most splendidly witty: some of his parliamentary speeches are in the very highest style of oratorical declamation; and his repartees may be counted amongst the most brilliant sayings of the wits of any age or country. But the greater the powers afforded by such endowments, the greater the danger of their overwhelming misuse, when associated with libertine principles. A single instance will illustrate this shining, but dangerous character; and will shew the dexterity with which he could turn the most sacred instructions of divine truth to his own purposes, and, at the same time, dress up his poison in a way to prevent the incautious from perceiving its real property. In some stanzas, which he wrote

to a lady, whom he was endeavouring to allure into the toils of his gallantry, are the following lines:

You say that love's a crime:—content;
Yet this allow you must,
More joy's in heaven if one repent
Than over ninety just.

Sin then, dear girl, for heaven's sake—
Repent, and be forgiven:
Bless me—and by repentance make
A holiday in heaven.

The whole life, conduct, and conversation of Lord Chesterfield, were such as might be expected from this specimen; but Mr. Stanhope, his son, had none of the qualities or dispositions necessary for the kind of man his father wished to make him: he possessed plain common sense, without any thing brilliant, or any spirit for the dangerous enterprises of intrigue. The noble Earl's efforts, therefore, being bestowed on such a soil, were, fortunately for the world, unproductive of the wished-for fruits. The leading principle of the Chesterfield system was, duplicity and incessant watchfulness to take every advantage, without giving any; and to labour hard to acquire a most engaging manner of address, deportment, and conversation, as the best auxiliaries in such nefarious pursuits. These Letters failing in their intended object, could have done little harm, had they been immediately destroyed; but the avaricious eagerness of the young man's mother to extort money for their suppression, induced her to bring them before the public; and they were eagerly read by most of the men of fashion of that period, who expected, by studying them closely, to become such fascinating gallants as Lord Chesterfield had been. With these views, therefore, they gradually laid aside their coarse and vulgar debaucheries; and soon appeared, if

they were not really so, less vicious than they had been before. This had become indispensable now, even for the purposes of gallantry or seduction, since the Queen's manners and principles had banished every thing like levity from the conversations of ladies of rank and fashion; and there is great reason to believe, that many of them had become delighted with the change. These pernicious Letters, however, long continued to spread, in secret, their baneful influence; which diminished, at a later period in our history, only when the mild penetrating beams of religious truth began to enlighten the hearts and minds of the noble, the great, and the wealthy.

Lord Chesterfield's biographers, admirers of his principles, have laboured to make it appear that he preserved, to the last moments of his life, the same sentiments and dispositions with which he had lived. One of them thus writes of him: "His wit and humour danced hand in hand with him as long as a single spark of life remained; for he was a man of that religion, which a Court and great good sense make of most men—he reasoned with precision; and laughed at the superstitions of the Church, as well as at those who believed them." But this, which is stated triumphantly of the Peer by one of those who lived with him, can serve, if true, but to furnish grounds of sorrow to those who love mankind, in the implied fact, that a hardened infidel could possibly die in his fatal unbelief. I have reasons, however, for stating my conviction, that Lord Chesterfield, before he died, felt deep remorse for the kind of life he had led, and for the dangerous use he had made of his endowments. It is ascertained that he would have given, in his last moments, any consideration in his power to prevent the public circulation of those Letters which, in prolonging his memory, also prolonged his disgrace and shame.

The King's anxious solicitude, at this time, for the further improvement in public morals, led to two legislative enactments. The first went to check, in some degree, the facility with which acts of divorcement, in cases of adultery, had been before obtained; and, for this purpose, the House of Commons caused a standing order to be entered on their Journals, "That before any Bill of divorce for *Adultery* do pass this House, evidence be given before the Committee, to whom the said Bill shall be committed, that an action of damages has been brought in one of His Majesty's Courts, in Westminster-Hall, against the person supposed to be guilty of adultery, and judgment had thereupon; or sufficient cause be shewn to the Committee why such action was not brought, or such judgment obtained."

The other parliamentary proceeding, which arose from the King's paternal regard for his people, even for those in a state of condemnation, or of imputed criminality, was a Bill appointing Clergymen to attend, advise, examine, console, exhort, and preach, in the different State Prisons; a duty which, though it had been occasionally performed before this period by assiduous, devout men, had always been performed gratuitously. Every one must be aware of the vast importance of such a regulation. The King and Queen knew so well the divine consolations of religion, that they could not but be extremely solicitous for others to have the benefit of them; and more particularly such as were weighed down by a consciousness of crime. I have reason to believe that this measure originated in a private conversation which took place between Their Majesties.

It is necessary now, in pursuance of the important object I have undertaken, that I should return to the affairs of British India, because their results were particularly connected with events that influ-

enced the decisions of the Royal Family in several points, and are therefore necessary to justify those decisions.

Soon after Lord Clive's departure from India, hostilities were again commenced between the British and the natives, in consequence of the intrigues and turbulent dispositions of a newly-created potentate, Hyder Ally, who had raised himself to great power by his active daring, and by his intrepid usurpations. At the age of twenty-five, he came forwards in the service of the King of Mysore; when the discipline of his small troop, consisting of about fifty men, added to his own judgment and valour, were so conspicuous, that in three years he found himself encouraged and enabled to raise five hundred sepoys, armed and equipped in the European manner, and two hundred horse, with a small train of artillery. His activity and judgment, aided by a treacherous disposition, enabled him, after a series of intrigues, contests, and treasons, to depose his Sovereign, and assume the government of the Mysore country. Being thus invested with absolute power and dominion, he determined to pursue his conquests; and therefore resolved to attack the British, who were the only neighbours he had any reason to fear: he also brought a very powerful ally to assist him. But the promptitude of the Madras Government had been such, in preparing for this attack, that the confederates, notwithstanding their numbers, were defeated in a general battle, near Trincomaly, and the ally of Hyder Ally, in consequence, made peace with the English, giving them a large portion of territory as a consideration.

But the spirit and vigour of Hyder were not to be subdued by a single reverse of fortune: he retired to his usurped dominions, and prepared for a desultory warfare; and contrived to baffle and disappoint, or circumvent, the British commanders,

for some time; till at length Colonel Wood, with a small force, being repulsed from one of the difficultly situated mountain-forts of that country, Hyder Ally attempted to cut him off, with an army of twenty thousand men. Although Wood had not quite three thousand men, of whom but a sixth part were British, he shewed not the least fear in attacking his adversary. The engagement lasted for six hours with great severity, the field being alternately won and lost many times; but the superiority of British discipline, at last, decided the battle against Indian numbers, and Hyder Ally retreated, leaving the ground covered with his dead.

This leader, however, little intimidated, contrived to harass the English settlers, till they consented to enter into negociations with him for a peace. In his treaty for this purpose, he displayed the same judgment as in the conduct of the war, and left the Europeans nothing to boast of as the result of the contest. But one thing was evident on this occasion; which was, the unavoidable inconvenience resulting, in military operations, from their being superintended by Commercial Commissioners, who had been appointed to overlook the proceedings, and control the plans, of the Commanding Officers. This evident incongruity and disastrous result, produced complaints on one side, and remonstrances on the other; which led to very important and acrimonious dissensions at home, in the India-House, and in Parliament. Various considerations were brought forward, various expedients were suggested, and some regulations were adopted, during the few following years; but every year produced new convictions, that a company of merchants are not proper persons of themselves to govern and direct extensive territorial acquisitions. Thus originated the solicitude of Ministers to get into their hands the control of an establishment,

which offered such a prospect of patronage. But it was too great and valuable a prize to be seized upon at once; therefore the Minister of the day made his encroachments gradually, because he well knew that it would require all the weight of unquestioned popularity to make him successful in such a scheme. The great mass of debt which was brought upon the East India Company, in consequence of these repeated wars, threw them into embarrassment, notwithstanding their great increase of territory; which nothing but time, and a most correct and judicious management of their concerns, seemed likely to remove. A deliberative government, like that of the Company's Directors, composed of men bred up in very different habits and pursuits, must necessarily be slow in deciding on any measure whatever; and when to this was superadded the time required for conveying their decisive resolutions and instructions over a space of more than six thousand miles, no one will be inclined to think that some powerful expedient was not requisite. The Directors of the Company's affairs thought so, and sent out Supervisors, as they were called, with very extensive powers, to correct abuses, to remove such as had been guilty of fraud, disobedience, and peculation, and to give, if possible, something like pristine vigour to the Indian government. But, unfortunately, the ship which carried out these gentlemen, from whose exertions so much good was expected, was lost on the passage. As no certain accounts were ever received of the time, the manner, or the place, of this sad catastrophe, no new appointment for the reform of abuses could be made; and thus the dishonest servants of a body of well-meaning English merchants were left, for at least eighteen months longer, to increase their ill-gotten fortunes, in spite of the cries and groans of a suffering people. I must be permitted to give one instance, in illus-

tration of this point; and I am persuaded there is scarcely an Englishman who, on reading it, will not feel his heart bleed with sympathy for the severe distresses of subjugated nations; or will not feel his cheeks burn with shame, that such distresses should have been occasioned by the unprincipled avarice of his compatriots.

In the year which succeeded the ruinous war with Hyder Ally, a great failure was occasioned in the crops of rice, by the uncommon dryness of the season. Notwithstanding the strict prohibition of the Court of Directors, against the interference of their servants in the inland trade, the opportunity was eagerly seized by rapacious individuals, as a means of adding to their already abounding wealth; without one moment's contemplation of the misery and distress that such measures would spread over a vast extent of country, thronged with an immense population. When the state of the season made it apparent that the crop of rice would be generally deficient, the English capitalists became eager purchasers; and such was the effect of their pernicious industry, that the natives, before they apprehended the extent of their combinations, were already exposed to the pressure of positive distress, and complained to the native Princes of the country, that the English had engrossed all the rice. A traffic of unexampled iniquity now began; and the rice which had been purchased at first for an average price, was again delivered out at more than four times the cost; and this enormous effort of avarice was sufficient to reduce the population of the country to despair, when several granaries, in which the native traders had deposited great quantities of this grain, which is the chief food of the inhabitants, were suddenly burnt down. It is believed that the English speculators were the incendiaries, for the purpose of increasing the value of their own stores.

The Princes and great men of the country, having exhausted whatever stock they had, in relieving the poor, and the parched-up fields no longer affording any kind of nutriment, the cities were thronged with starving multitudes; who, in the agonies of death, implored a termination of their miseries from those who had inflicted them; and who held with iron-grasp the means of relief. Thousands died daily in the streets; the air was infected with unwholesome exhalations; one hundred men were constantly employed, on the Company's account, in Calcutta alone, with sledges and other vehicles, to remove the dead, and throw them into the Ganges. Numbers of dogs, jackals, and vultures, flocked to this scene of desolation; and by feeding on the dead, added a terrific feature to the horrors of the spectacle. The Company, however, far from being benefited, was irreparably injured by these iniquities; which tended only to the aggrandisement of speculatists, who acquired unlimited wealth; while the coffers of the Directors remained empty, for want of the customary revenues arising from the people.

Let me, here, entreat my countrymen who are engaged in the pursuits of traffic, to consider seriously the dreadful scene I have just described, from the representations of an eye-witness: let me entreat them to consider, how the heart of man gradually becomes callous to all sympathy for human suffering, as it eagerly presses on in the pursuit of excessive wealth: and let me remind them, in the warning voice of the Scriptures, how difficult it is for a rich man to enter into that Kingdom, which is the region of never-ceasing blessedness.

But consequences, almost as dangerous, though of a different kind, might have arisen to our own country, from the wealth of these commercial destroyers of men and women: for they came home

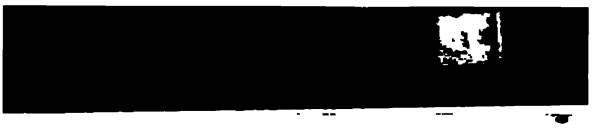
glutted with riches, and anxious to prove their importance by the magnitude of their disbursements. Happily, however, for this highly favoured country, there was a powerful touchstone by which all such were to be tried, before they could become current in British society—this was in the character and principles of the King and Queen; for, the immensity of wealth, the splendour of talent, the dignities of admitted rank, afforded no passports of admission to *their* notice, if not accompanied by correctness of life: and this was so well known in the country, that an opulent man, who might not be received at Court, was looked upon, generally, by the public, as a bad man.

But to recur to the consideration of Indian affairs.—It was not possible for the British nation to behold this progress of iniquity on the one hand, and distress on the other, without sentiments of anxiety and terror. The East India Company was no longer a firm of merchants, trading on a private capital, to a distant shore; the possessions in India were not simply beneficial appendages connected with the Empire; but such was the intermixture of their revenues with the public finances, that its ruin was looked upon as pregnant with direful consequences to the State. The Company was now in most deplorable circumstances: the treasury was empty; they had demands nearly coming due, to the amount of more than a million sterling; they were indebted very largely to the Bank and to the Government; and their successive advices from the East, gave no hope of an early improvement in their affairs. The King, therefore, by the advice of his Ministers, recommended to Parliament, from the Throne, to take the subject into their serious consideration. A Bill was in consequence brought in, and passed, tending materially to control the power of the Company; and this first step was followed by

others, successively, more and more important, till, in a few years, they formed a ladder for daring ambition to ascend, till she nearly laid her hands upon the Crown and Sceptre of these Kingdoms.

While the occurrences in the East were thus becoming seriously important, and the transactions in the West were assuming all the gloomy features of direful calamity; while France, Spain, and Holland, were coming forward in menacing hostility against us; when Denmark, Sweden, and Russia were uniting, under the pretence of armed neutrality, to destroy for ever the pre-eminent and enviable glories of Britain; the King stood firm at his post, like the immoveable cliffs of his native isle, looking with calmness on the furious storms that were accumulating over him, and at the angry waves that could dash only against his feet. He trusted in the resources of the country; he confided in the affections of the great mass of the people, to grant him a reasonable part of those resources, when required; he relied on his Ministers, as men that would do their duty; and he relied even on the opposers of his government, to let him know when his Ministers were wrong.

But the King, in all these difficulties, threatenings, and perils, had the never-failing consolations of a Christian, and the sympathizing affection of his incomparable Consort. He was indefatigable in his attentions to the public duties of his station, and punctual to a moment in all his appointments; but when acquitted of these, he hastened to receive his present reward in domestic enjoyments. The King and Queen were temperate, even to abstemiousness: they dined generally on one or two dishes, seldom or ever tasting more; and, if I am correctly informed, His Majesty was fifty years old before he had gone so far as to take wine to the amount of four glasses at one sitting. Their refections, therefore, were soon over; and their evenings were



generally passed in conversation, or reading, or music; or sometimes, all three intermixed. The Queen was not a complete musician, yet she played well on the harpsicord, and she delighted in exercising this talent for the gratification of her Husband, and for him only; while the King, whose fine taste made him an able performer on any instrument he chose to play, accompanied her performance by his skilful management of the German flute, and made "a concord of sweet sounds." It afforded a high musical treat, to such as were permitted to be present on these occasions, in hearing the pleasant harmony that was produced by such efforts; but it was interesting, instructive, and truly delightful, to observe the harmony of thought and feeling, that shone in the expressive countenances of the Royal performers. The growing-up Princesses, and the young children, were generally admitted, during a part of the evening, to these hours of social and affectionate relaxation, and seldom any other persons, previously to the Prince of Wales coming to his legal maturity. But Lady Charlotte Finch, and the sub-governess, Miss Goldworthy, were always expected and required.

In this particular, as well as in every other, the Queen manifested the soundness of her judgment, and gave an important lesson to the nobility and gentry of the kingdom. She was fully aware, that those who are thought competent and worthy to fill a mother's place, in forming the minds and manners of children, are highly meritorious, and deserving the confidence, the respect, and the friendship, of the parents. The children, consequently, looked up to Lady Charlotte Finch with a regard almost filial, which they ever afterwards retained. The care of educating the children, in many noble and genteel families, is confided entirely to governesses; who are treated, notwithstanding their qualifications, and their important

services, as but a little better than upper servants in the establishment, without having the liberty or the comforts of actual servitude. A governess, in such a situation, has to combat through the day with the various capacities and humours of the children; she is to form their minds, in moral, religious, and general learning; and to shew, in herself, an example of all that she inculcates: but when the fatigues of the anxious day are over, and the children are withdrawn from the school-room, to the dinner or dessert of their voluptuous parents, this meritorious being, who is, in fact, the mother of the family, is not called to the social repast; but remains tired, exhausted, and unenjoying, in her solitary apartment. I have often wondered at the thoughtless ingratitude I have seen exercised, in great families, towards such useful individuals, who thus waste their health and their minds for a very inadequate stipend. But the consequence of such a custom is, evidently, to prevent many of the good effects of even the best instruction; for wayward children will pay but very limited attention or obedience to those who appear to be thought unworthy of parental consideration. The excellent characters and dispositions of our Princesses are to be attributed, very materially, to the adoption of an opposite conduct by the Royal Mother; and I have great reason to believe, that many of their most important convictions were either formed or enforced in these domestic evening parties; when it was the custom of both parents to enter into conversations with the Governess, for the express purpose of communicating knowledge and instruction to the eager juvenile listeners.

It must ever be considered as an unfortunate piece of state policy, it must ever be regretted on account of its effects, that the Prince of Wales, by having a separate establishment granted him at so early a period, was nearly, if not altogether, de-

prived of the important benefits necessarily resulting from such communications. He lost the opportunity of being formed to noble thoughts, by a daily contemplation of his Father's conduct and sentiments; he lost the opportunity of knowing fully, by the study of his Mother's excellencies, how inestimable a treasure is a virtuous woman. But this was not all the evil that ensued from the Prince's premature independence: he became more accessible to the addresses, and more open to the intimacies, of artful men, who sought to gain respectability to themselves and their adherents, by his countenance and protection; and ultimately led him, though by many intermediate degrees, to become, in some instances, the opposer of his Royal Father's government. The Prince was of an open, generous disposition, and possessed a fine cultivated understanding: but youth is to every one a season of temptation and danger, even with the best inclinations, and even in humble stations; how then could it be expected, that a youth, standing, as it were, almost on the highest pinnacle of greatness, and unguided, should be able to escape the snares and entanglements spread round him by men of the first talents that Britain could boast; who were too cautious to let him know the extent of their designs, till he had, unconsciously, become a participator; and who dazzled him with the splendour of their wit and eloquence, while they were labouring to undermine his principles.

But it has ever been the practice in this country, for those who, systematically, oppose themselves to the existing Government, to lay hold of, and ensure the Heir Apparent, if possible, or some distinguished Member of the Royal Family, to give them countenance and sanction. This was the case with the Father of His present Majesty; and the practice will be illustrated by other instances, in the course of this work. It has been matter of

wonder and rejoicing to very many, that the Prince of Wales was at length able to shake off the swarm of locusts that was preying upon his vitals, and rise to the most elevated station in the country, with recovered splendour, and with incomparable dignity.

Literature, which in the former reign, chilled by the freezing influence of Royal neglect, had confined itself to the higher classes of society, now began to put forth its shining energies, secure of countenance and protection. Writers, of high talent, grew up from among the people, and were sure of success: but there is one only whom I feel it my duty to mention in this work; one, whose useful labours are known to every person in every country where the British language is in use; nor let the fastidious learned smile scornfully when, after this prelude, I put forward the name of—Mrs. Trimmer. This deservedly respected, and good woman, set herself to labour for the improvement of the infant mind, at a time when nothing had been done for the education of English children, and when, to learn their own language, there seemed to be no other way for boys, than to begin with learning Latin. The abilities, the views of Mrs. Trimmer, were soon made known to the Queen, through the medium, I believe, of Lady Charlotte Finch; and many of those works, which have since had, and will continue to have, so extensive a circulation, were written by Mrs. Trimmer for the use and instruction of the Royal children, on plans or ideas suggested by Her Majesty.

There was a subject, though apparently of much less importance, which engaged the Queen's attention at this time, and which frequently made part of her conversations with those in whom she most confided. I mention it in order to shew, that there was no opportunity, or even prospect of an oppor-

tunity, to do good, that escaped her consideration. This subject consisted in the want of a sufficient number of situations and employments for respectable young females, and the melancholy consequences that necessarily followed. At that period, as well as now, a great part of the business that seems peculiarly suited to female hands, was exercised or carried on by men: there were men-milliners, men dress-makers, men stay-makers, and it is recorded, that a shop in Pall Mall, for the sale of gloves, laces, tapes, fans, and ribbons, had *then* no less than twenty-seven young men in it, for the purpose of attending to the customers. From these, and other similar circumstances, there was nothing left for the dependent daughters of deceased clergymen, and unsuccessful tradesmen, between absolute menial servitude and governess-ship on the one hand, and starvation or vice on the other. For the first of these classes the Queen had already done much, as I have stated before, but the numbers that still remained without the means of honest livelihood, were daily evinced by the scenes exhibited in St. James's Park, almost under the eyes of Majesty itself; where many young women, who had been reduced, and obliged to take up with the situations of nursery maids in private families, were continually entrapped, and made the prey of artful and practised seducers of female innocence. The undertaking to correct these circumstances, appears to have been one of extreme difficulty; and perhaps did not meet with a cordial wish to co-operate in it, from the mass of fashionable ladies; for, notwithstanding the powers of Royal influence were employed in its favour, the greater part of the evil still remains. There is one point, however, which the Queen succeeded finally in accomplishing—the sacred persons of our daughters, our sisters, and our wives, are no longer profaned by the hands of male stay-makers. What is yet to do in

this important matter, may, I trust, yet be brought to bear; as, I understand, an association is now forming, by some ladies of high rank, to withdraw themselves from all shops destined for the sale of light and fancy articles, *unless supplied by women.* If this association should be able to effect a consummation so devoutly to be wished, it will add another gem to the bright moral crown of the incomparable Queen Charlotte.

These Memoirs are now nearly arrived at a period interesting, terrifying, and awful, to every true-hearted English reader: in contemplating the events which affected the Country and the Royal House in the next ten years, we shall be led to tremble, to weep, and to rejoice. But as this epocha of British history was distinguished by a more splendid mass of congregated talent and eloquence than it has ever had to record either before or since, I feel it necessary to dilate on the occasion. Some of the great men I shall have occasion to name, contributed materially, though I can believe not intentionally, to bring on the calamitous occurrences we shall have to deplore; others assisted with the whole force of their talents, their integrity, and their loyalty, to stem the torrent which threatened to overwhelm, in one common ruin, the national prosperity, the Throne, and the most sacred institutions of the Country.

Lord Apsley was at this time Lord Chancellor, and revered for his inflexible honesty: he had risen to that high office by regular gradations, and by the increased esteem which his character excited. His eloquence was clear and sound, but plain; full of that common sense which is so congenial to the minds of Englishmen.

The Earl of Mansfield, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, had long maintained unrivalled reputation as a Lawyer, as well as an exalted reputation for his powers to assist the Government.

He was perfectly acquainted with the History and Constitution of England, versed in the practice of its laws, and enlightened by all the information necessary to form a comparison and connection between *them* and the best ancient and modern systems. His language was natural, yet elegant, arranged with method, and applied with the utmost ingenuity; his eloquence was flowing, perspicuous, convincing, and impressive, both at the Bar and in the Senate. He was endowed with a most retentive memory; which made his replies irresistible, from the facility it gave him of repelling the arguments of his opponents, and of exposing their fallacy, weakness, or absurdity. He affected no sallies of imagination, or bursts of passion, but made his appeal rather to the reason than the feelings; and did not, even when attacked, condescend to personal abuse, or petulant altercation. His person was remarkable for grace and elegance, his eye piercing, his voice finely toned, and his countenance replete with fire and activity. He supported through life the utmost consistency of political conduct; never courting popular applause so much as the approbation of the wise and good, yet not intimidated by the appearance of danger, or the fury of party, from pursuing that conduct, or enforcing those sentiments, which were dictated by his own conviction. Too mild to be the leader, too wise to be the dupe, of any party, he was believed constantly to speak his own sense of public measures: the House of Lords paid greater deference to his authority, than to that of any other individual; and he was frequently and confidentially consulted by the King. The eager penetrating eye of envy and jealousy could not fix upon a point to blame in his political conduct; and it is still more useful to be able to say, that his private character was without stain or reproach.

The Earl of Dartmouth deserves particular

notice here, for his high and inflexible uprightness, as well as for his patriotism; which led him to leave important pursuits of his own, on the command of his King, for the purpose of entering into the uneasy and never-praised duties of the public administration. His education had been classical and refined; and his disposition, as well as his marriage with a pious but wealthy young Lady, giving him a most decided disposition to a retired and religious life, he had devoted himself to the study of the holy Scriptures, with a view to shew their practical effects. He was unquestionably a favourer of the *Methodists*, a then-beginning sect of Christians; and he built a Chapel for his own use, and for the use of those in the neighbourhood whose persuasion he wished to favour. It will be easy for persons of serious minds to estimate the sacrifice this Nobleman made, in obeying the mandates of his Sovereign; it will be easy for every candid person to say what were the motives of the King, religious and pious as he was, in calling for such an assistant to his councils. In his public capacity, of which he held different degrees at successive periods, Lord Dartmouth fulfilled his duties with ability, and was respected by his co-adjutors: in his public oratory he spoke seldom, but always fluently, modestly, and with effect.

The Earl of Sandwich was a man able in business, and eminently serviceable in argumentative discussion; but his immoral character rendered his support nugatory, and any connection with him almost disgraceful.

The Earl of Chatham, formerly Mr. Pitt, was at this time like an exhausted torch, which makes a great blaze and expires. He served the King, while it suited his views; he lived upon the Royal bounty, while he was perseveringly opposing its measures; and made his last public effort, at the expense of his nearly exhausted life, in defending the cause of

those who were generally believed to be in rebellion against the legitimate sovereignty of the British empire. His love for power and for rule made him forget his principles; and he died in a day or two after this last exertion, with greatly diminished repute, and with less esteem than he found when a faithful servant of the Crown. His most important sentiments, as far as they coincided with true British feeling, were preserved as maxims by wise politicians, and will ever continue to influence the councils of our Government.

The Duke of Richmond, the proudest man in England, was the indefatigable and inveterate opponent of every measure brought forwards in support of the King's government; and it was supposed to be owing to the presumptuous idea he had conceived, of connecting one of his daughters in marriage with the King. Many statements on this subject have been given to the public, without foundation of any kind; and I feel authorized in saying, that the virtuous, the exemplary King of these realms, never did, at any time in his life, look with desire upon any woman but his wife. That Lady Sarah Lenox might have an affection for His Majesty, ardent and sincere, I can believe; and that she took opportunities of manifesting it on public occasions, even after the King was married, I can also believe; but it is no proof of the participation of the Sovereign, that she dared thus to look up to him in his single state; and it is no proof of her modesty, that she could look up to him afterwards. The Duke of Richmond always spoke with vehemence, and with downright English roughness; but what he said was considered as the real conviction of his own mind. But there is a circumstance connected with this noble Duke which must not be passed over; it was creditable to himself, and beneficial to others; and, therefore, whether it originated in his pride or his liberality,

is of no importance to the country, which was essentially served by his condescension. The Duke had a fine gallery of antique marbles, and of casts after the antique statues, which he kindly allowed the artists of this country, who had, at that time, no other opportunity of a similar kind, to come and study, in any way they chose, under certain terms of time and decorum. This may be said to be the first rudiment of an English school of painting and sculpture; and it was in the Duke of Richmond's galleries, that Mortimer, one of the most eminent of British painters, made his first useful studies, and laid the foundation for his celebrity.

The Earl of Shelburne came early into public life, and was made Aide-du-champ to the King, whose favour and patronage he long experienced; but, ungratefully, wishing rather to be conspicuous as principal in an opposing party, than useful as a subordinate servant of the state, he revolted from his kind Master, and took an active part in obstructing and reviling the measures of Government. He was well versed in the commercial interests and concerns of the nation; and whenever he delivered his sentiments in public, it was always with force and correctness; but there was ever a consciousness of superiority in his mind, which shewed itself in a kind of sarcastic smile, that did not please his friends, and disgusted his adversaries.

The Dukes of Devonshire and Portland seldom appeared before the public by their individual abilities; but they were extolled, and kept in public view, by the party that hung upon them, and that lived in a great measure out of their large fortunes, while there was no Heir Apparent sufficiently endowed for the purpose. They were certainly men of honest minds, with regard to their public conduct; and the dissatisfied part of the community called them independent, because they

had a number of political dependents whom they could control.

Mr. Rigby was a manly, eloquent, and intrepid public speaker. Sir Gilbert Elliott, and Sir Grey Cooper, were able advocates of the cause they chose to undertake, and were looked up to as men of real talent.

Mr. Dundas began his distinguished career as Lord Advocate of Scotland; and communicated, afterwards, to every office in which he was engaged, a prompt and perspicuous method of transacting business, which had not existed in any of the Government offices before. Although he seemed to lie under some disadvantage from his native accent, yet few were heard in the senate with greater attention: he was an able and spirited debater, never trying to elude the question, but declaring his sentiments with manly firmness, to the exclusion of pompous phraseology or rhetorical ornament.

Mr. Wedderburne was acute, perspicuous, elegant, and persuasive: he alternately essayed the force of reason, and the charms of eloquence; sometimes attacking the judgment with refined argument; at other times appealing to the fancy, with the powers of wit and the graces of elocution.

Sir George Saville, being a Member of Parliament for the County of York, was respected for the soundness of his understanding, the firmness of his principles, and the integrity of his motives. Possessed of a large fortune, and never having accepted any official situation, he was not supposed to be influenced by any views of ambition; yet his opposition to the Government was constant and vigorous, and he was considered as the head of that party called *country gentlemen.*

Mr. Burke, of whom I have spoken already, was at this time in the full possession of his splendid faculties, and at the height of his reputation; but all the faculties of mind and powers of speech he

possessed, were directed against the King's ministers; and he gained much weight by his being the political confessor and guide of the Marquis of Rockingham; who, like all other seceders, became the inveterate opponent of those measures he was not allowed to direct.

Mr. Fox, of whom I have also spoken before, was now exhibiting his extraordinary powers. He had been twice in official situations, and was looked upon as a promising young man; but his last appointment being in the Treasury, and his disposition to gambling being known, he was dismissed by the King's order. This exasperated his feelings to such a degree as roused the whole powers of his mind, in order to give vent more effectually to his resentment and indignation. As Mr. Fox was so conspicuous an actor in the machinery of British history during very many years, I feel it right to dwell upon this part of my subject.

Fox had displayed at Eton and at Oxford an ardent attachment to classical literature, and gave presages of his future greatness. The inconsiderate indulgence, however, of his partial father, supplied him too freely with the means of gratifying passions common to youth; and therefore more dangerous in one of a lively and vehement temper. Thus, for want of wholesome restraint, his talents and acquirements remained long concealed (from even those who wished to serve him) under a veil of licentious, unbounded dissipation. He obtained a seat in Parliament before he was of the legal age; but this did not excite him to use or exert his natural powers: and his dismission from office seemed to be the first cause which induced him to shake off his supineness, and endeavour to appear what he really was.

The force of Mr. Fox's oratory cannot be adequately described, and can be perfectly known only to those who have had the opportunity of hearing

him on important occasions. His speeches were luminous, without the appearance of preconcerted arrangement; his mind seemed, by its native force, to have disposed the whole subject, without thought of any rule whatever, so that it should carry conviction down the rapid stream of his eloquence; and yet increasing in impression, as the lively energies of his mind furnished accumulated illustrations. The distinguishing characteristic of his arguments was profoundness; his general aim was the establishing some grand principle, often rather abstract than practical, to which all the other parts of his speech were made subordinate. His talents for reply were singularly happy; and he contrived not only to baffle his adversaries, but to extend, generously, a kind of friendly shield over his adherents, by which they felt themselves supported and encouraged. The boldest conceptions of his mind did not, at the time, appear gigantic or preposterous; because, in uttering them, he seemed convinced of their real practicability. Rhetorical embellishments, though frequently found in his harangues, did not seem to be the results of laborious cultivation, but as spontaneous effusions. Fox seemed to illustrate rules of elocution which he had, perhaps, long since forgotten to have read; and the bold originality of his thoughts and expressions would rather entitle him to be considered the founder of a new style, than as a servile adherent to any former practice. He had, however, the aid of the accomplished Burke, who poured into Fox's mind rich stores from his overflowing exuberance. Yet their manners of address were evidently dissimilar: Fox depended on his alacrity of argumentation; Burke on those beauties which his taste and learning enabled him to collect and dispose with so much grace and facility: his speeches were listened to as elegant pleadings, while Fox carried away his hearers irresistibly by the impetuous vehemence of his oratory, by

which he gave animation to his partisans; and if he did not overthrow his adversaries, he, at least, succeeded in disconcerting those that were timid.

Mr. Fox, great as unquestionably he was in his public character, was still more interesting to those who knew him intimately in private. Though he never ceased to be an active gambler, it had no evident effect on his unchangeable good humour; and the promptitude with which he could apply himself to the labours of political debate, or unbend, after exertion, to the extremes of social enjoyment, made him a most valuable and attractive leader. He has been seen coming out of a gaming-house near St. James's, in the middle of the day, after a short sleep, with his knees unbuttoned, his stockings down his legs, and putting on his cravat as he went through the street; and he has thus equipped himself on his way to the House of Commons, after a night of luxurious, convivial enjoyment, where he has made an eloquent and argumentative speech of two or three hours in length. Such were the gigantic powers of this hero of British Oppositions.

But Fox had generous and noble feelings, which his vicissitudes, as a constant gambler, allowed him but few opportunities of manifesting: one, however, is in my possession, and I feel bound to state it.

A tradesman to whom Mr. Fox had given a note for a debt of nearly a thousand pounds, and which was much over due, obtained, after many applications, an interview with this great statesman and orator. He found him counting out bank-notes and guineas to a considerable amount, and therefore anticipated payment as a matter of unequivocal certainty: he presented his demand, and was kindly received; but Fox declined to satisfy him, pleading extreme poverty: and when the anxious tradesman referred to the money on the table, as an evidence to the contrary, his surprised auditor

exclaimed rapidly, " I lost that much last night, and must pay it to-day. These are debts of honour, and admit of no delay." The suitor for payment immediately went to the fire-place, put the note into the hottest part of the grate, saw it completely burned; and then turning to Mr. Fox, said, " Sir, this also is *now* a debt of honour, and I lie at your mercy." The Statesman was so struck with the noble manner in which he was thus assailed, that he immediately paid the value of the note; and Lord George, or Lord Harry, or some other gambling creditor, had probably to wait for payment till Mr. Fox's luck took a more favourable turn.

These were some of the shining characters which illuminated the political hemisphere of Britain, in the beginning of the year 1780; and it certainly appears that the powers of eloquence preponderated against the Government. These orators, however, and others who preceded them, for ten years before, poured out their rhetoric in vehement attacks on whatever came from the Crown; and if it had been the fair expression of mental conviction, no blame could, or ought to be, thrown upon the speakers: but a person dealing in strong invective is like a man beginning to eat pepper in his food—he feels its irritating power for a day, or two, or three, till use makes him familiar to it, and then he complains that the cook has not sufficiently seasoned his dish; and thus he goes on, insensibly increasing the powerful ingredient, till his food becomes pernicious to those who taste it. In a similar way, the popular orators, without intending mischief, had continued increasing the acrimony of their declamations against the Government; and the consequence, the inevitable consequence, was to inflame and irritate, more and more, the minds of the people; for it was not till very near this period, that proceedings and speeches in the Houses of Parliament began to be taken down and published. I have shewn,

before, the eagerness of the People for an increase of their liberties, and the reason of it; and I have referred, also, to their turbulent dispositions, manifested in the early part of this reign; but, when to these inclinations were superadded the excitements of vehement oratory, from persons of reputed authority and estimation, the probable and dreadful consequences might be easily anticipated. Dreadful indeed they were; and the blood that flowed as an inevitable result, must be upon the heads of those who wrought up the People to a fatal degree of uncontrollable frenzy. There is no other way of accounting for the terrible commotions it will be my painful duty to describe.

The King, I have shewn already, was a sincere lover of the People from the moment of his ascending the Throne, and wished to give them all the advantages the Constitution allowed; but he was checked in his plans for their benefit, by the dangerous eagerness with which they demanded what he was predisposed to grant. The Queen had been an invariable friend to the People from the moment of her marriage, dispensing her bounties and her benevolences around her with unexampled profusion. Shall we look then to some change in the principles or conduct of these exalted characters, for an apology to extenuate these distressful events? We will take the evidence of a respectable gentleman, the Rev. Martin Shirley, who wrote precisely at this time to a friend in Paris; and, as the letter was not then expected to be published, we may give credit to it, as a genuine opinion, coming from a gentleman of unquestionable respectability.

Extract from a Letter by the Rev. Martin Shirley to his Friend.

"But why will you not come to London? I am anxious to repay you the civilities you shewed me at Paris. You hate England, but you love the English: I love France as little as

you do England; but I assure you I most sincerely esteem a number of your countrymen, and none of them more sincerely than yourself. You will not come, you say, till the peace is made. I hope, for your sake, we shall beat you; for if we do, you will be better received.

"As Le Roi is the grand idea that fills your mind at home, so I take it for granted our King is the first object that will engage your attention here. I think I can tell pretty nearly what you will say of him on your return, as well as of our capital. You will let me know if I have guessed right.

"You will say, then, that he represents Majesty better than any Sovereign you have seen, except the Pope. Thus far only you can judge for yourself. The rest of your judgments must be collected from the opinions of the different classes of his subjects.—The People here don't flatter, but always give their 'worst thoughts the worst of words.' You may trust their account of him implicitly; and it is indeed a very flattering account for him. They will tell you, that he has all manner of good qualities, and no bad ones; that he is humane and pious; that he loves his Queen, his Children, and his People; that he is very benevolent, and never did or said an ill-natured thing: to which they add, that he has no capricious expenses, and that he is very temperate in his manner of living. Thus far the People.—Men of letters and artists praise him, because he encourages genius, and rewards, with Royal munificence, every species of superior merit.—Persons of rank, who see him nearer, say, that his manners are obliging, his understanding solid, his taste good, and that he is possessed of very extensive knowledge.

"To all this they add but one shade; they say he is obstinate. Obstinacy, in the language of courtiers, you know, is steadiness. Where one ends, and the other begins, is not, perhaps, so easy to determine. The excess of a virtue is generally a fault; and as the People, who have nothing to hope or fear, and who really love the King, say he is not obstinate, you will probably be rather inclined to believe them than the Courtiers.

"Upon the whole, you will find him a great and amiable Prince; and you will regret, as I did, that he had not a friend in the No-Popery mob, to burn St. James's Palace; for he is, without exception, the worst-lodged Sovereign in Europe.

"After Le Roi, you will, no doubt, think of La Reine. Our Queen is neither a great wit nor a great beauty. She is

prudent, well-informed, has an excellent understanding, and *is very charitable.* I spent three months in the country where she was born; and the people there have quick conceptions, and are well-natured. Her Majesty has an elegant person, good eyes, good teeth, a Cleopatra nose, and fine hair. The expression of her countenance is pleasing and interesting; it is full of sense, and good temper. She loves domestic pleasures; is fonder of diamonds than the Queen of France; is extremely affable, very pious, and is praised by all the world, at home and abroad."

It could not then be said that the Queen had begun to turn a deaf ear to the supplications and cries of the indigent and the distressed; for almost every hour of her life gave proof to the contrary: it could not be said that the King had become despotic, and determined, for the future, to rule his subjects with an iron sceptre, for he had recently authorised a Bill *(n)* for taking off the restraints formerly imposed on the professors of the Popish religion, because their correct and peaceable demeanour seemed to give them a sort of claim to this indulgence. It is lamentable, however, to think that this particular act of Royal clemency and justice, was made the chief pretext for combining together, in one grand focus of revolt, the various classes who had long been irritated and encouraged, as I have stated already, by those who certainly never contemplated such a result: for a rash fanatic, uniting enthusiasm with obstinacy and unlimited impudence, took advantage of the state of opinion, thus inflamed, amongst the lower orders of the people, and produced all the mischievous effects of madness combined with wickedness.

This daring incendiary, the son of a most Noble Family, and being also a Member of Parliament, had been made president of a rabble association in Edinburgh, who pretended that their Church was in danger, though the bill for relieving Papists was confined to England; and he soon contrived to get

himself made president of similar associations in London, through the medium of debating societies, and other instruments of the lowest kind, till he was inflated with insufferable self-importance, in addition to his natural audacity. But he was also encouraged, in some degree, by persons who did not think of the probable consequences. The Members of Opposition treated him with complacency, and sometimes with approval: their most distinguished leaders called him, in public, their honourable friend; and often supported his arguments, and justified his conduct in the House. Thus countenanced, he carried his coarse and treasonable harangues in Parliament to a degree that ought to have been instantly suppressed, though he met with absolute impunity. On one occasion, he charged the King with being a Papist; on another, he charged the Sovereign with having broken his coronation oath; and stated, that *he* had a hundred and sixty thousand men at his disposal in Scotland, who would march up to London, and do more to the King than abridge his revenue, for they would cut off his head.

This man, whom many tolerated because they believed him mad, had all the method and cunning of a complete incendiary in his madness. He contrived, through the societies with which he was connected, to get various petitions prepared for Parliament, against the Act of Indulgence to the Papists; and he gave notice to the House of Commons of the day on which he would come to present them. The better to aid his views on this occasion, he caused, by means of his agents, an assemblage of the lower orders of people in a large tract of, then, open ground near the King's Bench Prison, called St. George's Fields, whence they were to proceed to the Parliament House. The mass of wicked, or deluded, people, amounted to more than twenty thousand men: they were inflamed to

the most atrocious daring by a speech from Lord George, their president and leader; after which, being marshalled into companies, they were marched by a circuitous road over London Bridge to Westminster, in order to collect as many associates on the way, as the dissolute habits of some, and the idle curiosity of others, might be ready to supply. The whole mass at length arrived, and rushed into Palace Yard like a torrent; stopping up all the avenues to the Houses of Parliament, and beating, abusing, and almost killing, many of the Members, who attempted to pass through, for the purpose of discharging their duty.

It is a remarkable illustration of the Duke of Richmond's character, that he was then in the middle of a flaming speech against the King and his Ministers, when several Peers came in, exhibiting demonstrations of the treatment they had experienced, and declaring that Lord Boston and the Bishop of Lincoln were then in the hands of the mob, with no hope of escaping alive. All the notice the Duke chose to take on the occasion was, in complaining that his speech had been interrupted. The Peers, however, withdrew, one after another; and his Grace was left, at last, with no auditor but Lord Mansfield.

The House of Commons was treated with the same violence; and while the mob shouted, and reiterated "No Popery," the doors were assailed with inconceivable violence; and, considering the small power of resistance, it is wonderful they did not force their way in. The House, however, acted with becoming dignity: it agreed immediately to receive the petition brought by this tremendous multitude; but refused to discuss its merits while surrounded by a dictatorial assemblage. While this debate was going on, Lord George Gordon went continually forth into the lobby, where he harangued his noisy troops, encouraging them to persevere,

and assuring them that their *imposing appearance would soon compel the King to grant all they asked.* This was observed by a very respectable Member of the House, who immediately laid hold of this noble leader of riot; declaring that, at first, he had attributed this man's conduct to a deranged state of mind, but that now he understood it very differently; and that if he went out of the House again, he would move for having him instantly committed to Newgate. This meek advocate of turbulence submitted to the Honourable Member's requisition, in not leaving the House; but he contrived to get up stairs into a kind of gallery, from which he addressed the mob as before. As soon as this evasion was perceived, and while the rioters continued thundering at the doors, another Member declared, that the moment the entrance was forced, he would run his sword through Lord George's heart, considering him as the cause of all the proceedings. This judicious menace had the desired effect, and the patriot remained in his place.

The House of Commons continued in debate on these circumstances till nine o'clock; and, being then informed that the Guards were stationed in the different avenues, and Mr. Addington, the police magistrate, was arrived in great force, the House adjourned. The mob soon after this, partly through the persuasions which were kindly used by many, and, perhaps, more through fear of the formidable military power that was now in view from all sides, retired without doing further mischief in this quarter; but it was only for the purpose of effecting more terrible outrage in quarters where they anticipated no opposition. They marched off in something like regular detachments, towards different objects; but the first, as being the nearest, was the Popish Chapel in Warwick-street; the next was the Sardinian Ambassador's Chapel, near Lincoln's Inn Fields. From these, every thing that could be

turned out, was burnt in the street; while similar conflagrations, produced by other detachments, illuminated the darkness of night, and gave proof of horrible sympathy between the eastern and western divisions of the Metropolis. On one of these occasions, a foreigner, exceedingly well dressed, was seized as a most active encourager of the prevailing mischief; but, though placed in custody, he contrived to make his escape. I shall have to mention another circumstance of this kind, before I come to the end of this melancholy history of riot and devastation; and to draw from it a lesson of important instruction to my countrymen. In the mean time I cannot help remarking, that the time particularly chosen for bringing forward these demonstrations of popular fury, was in the first week of June, when the country was supposed to concur in celebrating, with general complacency, if not with rejoicing, the anniversary of the King's birth-day. There was, I think, in this, an unquestionable indication of personal hostility to the Sovereign; which throws a much clearer light on the object of the proceedings, than was cast by the dreadful fires which they lighted up in almost every quarter of the Metropolis.

Thirteen young men were secured in assisting to destroy the Sardinian Ambassador's Chapel; some of whom, it appeared, on their examinations before Sir John Fielding, had actually got up from their beds, to which they had retired after the usual labours of the day, to come and assist upon this occasion.

The early part of the next day shewed all the signs of returning tranquillity. The Parliament met as usual; when Lord Bathurst moved for an address to the King, for prosecuting the authors, abettors, and instruments, of those outrages which took place the day before: on which occasion, the Duke of Richmond defended the mob; and Lord

Shelburne complained, that much more than toleration had already been granted to the Papists. The motion, however, was carried; and much was supposed to be thus done for securing the public peace: but, contrary to every hope, contrary to all expectation, the tumults were renewed in the evening of the next day. The rioters assembled in great numbers near Moorfields, where they broke into another Popish chapel, which they plundered and burnt; bringing the altar, the pictures, the images, and every moveable, into the street: and they did this under the immediate observation of the Lord Mayor, a supine and feeble man, whose want of vigour, in neglecting to discharge the important duties of his station, seemed greatly to encourage the licentious populace. The military had been brought to the place, to protect the property of those who were assailed; but they were not permitted to act: and when the mob had glutted themselves with the labours of destruction, the Lord Mayor and his Aldermen retired quietly to the Mansion-House; leaving, as it might seem, the soldiers to take care of the burning ruins. This wonderful public magistrate, having received, at length, a letter from the Secretary of State, desiring him to take measures for suppressing the tumults, which appeared to be rapidly increasing, summoned a court of Aldermen, to ask what should be done; which, being attended but by one or two members, this vigilant keeper of the city's peace, in order to meet the alarming exigency of the moment, *adjourned the court to the next day.*

On the 5th of June, being the day appointed for the Nobility and Gentry to pay their personal respects and compliments to the King and Queen, the rioters seemed as if resolved to distinguish the occasion by an extraordinary increase of their wanton outrages. A Privy-Council had been held; which did no more than offer a reward of five hun-

dred pounds for the discovery of the rioter who broke into the Chapel in Warwick-street: but this forbearance had no effect on a rabble, already determined on mischief. The dawn was ushered in by a furious assault on the house of Sir George Saville, who had first suggested the measure in favour of the Papists; and for this one proceeding, they demolished the whole furniture of an amiable and patriotic man, whose whole life had been devoted to promote the interests of the people. In the evening, the mob collected in the neighbourhood of Moorfields, and attacked the School House, as well as some dwellings, belonging to Papists; which they completely gutted, burning even the floors and timber of the apartments. It was observed, on this occasion, that the dexterity displayed by the mob in this work of destruction, manifested not only an organized system, but the evident employment of such men as were already accustomed to dissecting houses. The good conduct and forbearance of the military, throughout the whole of this day, were most exemplary, though suffering the severest provocations. One instance only of a contrary nature took place. When the soldiers were on their return from escorting to Newgate the rioters, who, after being taken, had been examined at Bow-street, and committed, they were insulted with the coarsest abuse, and pelted with mud and stones. One of the privates, having his eye struck out by a blow from the mob, levelled his musket at the man who had inflicted it, and would instantly have shot him; but the commanding officer saw the proceeding just in time, and put the gun down with his sword.

From the neighbourhood of Moorfields, the mob marched off in divisions. In Wapping, and East Smithfield, Romish chapels were razed to the ground; and great part of the wreck being carried, as an acceptable and tributary trophy, to the house

of the exciter and leader of these daring bands, was burnt in the street before his door. A grand column of rioters marched to Charles-street, Hoxton-square; and approaching the house of Mr. Bridgewater, who kept an academy there, loudly charged him with being a Papist. He assured them he was a staunch Protestant; but they then accused him of teaching the Popish tenets to the children under his care. His answer to this new accusation was, "I teach them to read and understand the Old and New Testaments, according to the principles of the Church of England, as by law established:" on which they required to search his house; and, having no option, he admitted seven men to examine every apartment. They found no traces of Popery, and went off without doing any damage to the place or property; which is the only instance of forbearance during the whole of the proceedings. A second party marched to Hermitage, where they committed the most outrageous violence; while a third party did the same in Southwark. At the closing in of the evening, an accumulated party attacked the house of Mr. Rainsforth, a tallow-chandler, near Clare Market, who had incurred their displeasure by his active exertions to prevent riot and disorder on the preceding day. After demolishing the windows, they entered the house, the inside of which they destroyed; and then brought out the fat and candles, with whatever else was combustible, into the street, where they set them on fire, floating the air with flame, and the kennels with melted tallow, into which the sparks falling, set the whole on a blaze. It cannot be doubted, that from the narrowness of the streets in this quarter of the town, and the kind of property selected for attack, the intention was to fire the whole Metropolis. Thirty boxes of candles, besides hogsheads of fat and tallow, were destroyed on this occasion. On the

first notice given to the magistracy of this attack, a detachment of horse and foot soldiers was brought to the spot; but the force was so inconsiderable, that the men were obliged to remain as spectators only.

About ten o'clock, another party collected before the house of Mr. Maberly, coach painter, near Lincoln's Inn Fields, which they entirely destroyed; and for no other reason, than because he had been active in his exertions to keep the peace in his neighbourhood.

A hand-bill had been circulated, with most mischievous activity, for calling another general meeting of the Lord George Gordon's Societies, to meet on the morning of this day in St. George's Fields, as before: and with a view to prevent the ill effects of such an assembly, detachments of light-horse were early marched from the different parts of Surry, towards the place of intended meeting; with orders to stop up all the avenues, and to disperse all persons who seemed desirous of collecting together. Other parties of horse and foot were marched from Whitehall, the Savoy, and several different quarters, for the same purpose. The ways leading to the Palace, to Westminster Hall, to the Houses of Parliament, were effectually guarded, so that the proper functions of Government might go on.

This weak-minded fanatic, or traitor, who had brought this terrible visitation upon the Metropolis of England, now began to tremble for the consequences which reverted to him, personally, as the instigator. He caused his subservient associators to issue a letter, disclaiming any part in the riots which had taken place; and recommending all good Protestants to be quiet and orderly. A more delusive attempt to cover an outrageous proceeding, was, perhaps, never put forth in the world; and Lord George attended in the House of Commons

the same day, with the cockade in his hat which had been the badge and signal of insurrection and rebellion during the few preceding days. Mr. Herbert, afterwards Earl of Carnarvon, called to him across the table, peremptorily commanding him to take it out; and, assuring him, that unless it were done immediately, he would be the agent to his own commands. Lord George tamely acquiesced, and pocketed both the affront and the cockade. On this occasion, some of the Members of Opposition seemed sensible of the dreadful emergency to which the country was reduced, and disposed to strengthen and assist the Government; and Mr. Burke, and Sir George Saville, endeavoured to enforce these sentiments: but they were violently opposed by Mr. Fox, who had not yet forgotten his sudden dismission from the Treasury.

The lenity of the Government, the inadequate measures of the city police, and the restrictions laid upon the soldiery, who hitherto had but served to augment the crowd of lookers-on, so encouraged the rabble, that they concluded their power to be irresistible, and that they might proceed to the greatest lengths with assured impunity. Inspired, therefore, with this destructive idea, on the fifth night of rebellious outrage, they assembled at seven o'clock, in the Old Bailey; and all the avenues to Newgate were blocked up by solid masses of rioters. Mr. Ackerman, keeper of the prison, was called upon to deliver up the persons who had been committed for offences on the foregoing days; and, on his refusal, his house was immediately forced. In a few minutes the rabble were seen at different windows, throwing out beds, tables, carpets, wearing apparel, furniture, and every thing that was moveable, into the street; where it was heaped together for the purpose of being burned, and was soon in a blaze. From this flaming pile innumer-

able firebrands were thrown into the house, which, by the activity of those within, was soon on fire in several places. In less than half an hour, ignited columns were seen issuing from the chimneys, and from the windows of the house, burning with such incredible fury as to endanger the opposite houses, though the street is so wide. The destructive progress of the flames was hailed with congratulatory cheers by the populace; and the firemen, who attended, were obstructed and repressed from making any effort whatever, at the peril of their lives, from the vengeance of the mob. As the darkness of night advanced, the conflagration became tremendously awful: the magnificent appearance of the building, the intensity and brightness of the flames, and the roaring applauses of more than twenty thousand persons, ready for another mischief, presented to the eye and to the mind a combination of impressive circumstances beyond the power of augmentation; but that which was about to follow, made the beginning comparatively insignificant.

From Mr. Ackerman's house the flames spread to the Chapel; and about nine o'clock, the mob having procured ladders, sledge hammers, and other weapons and implements, a number of persons climbed the walls of the Prison, while others forced their way into it through a small gate, at the end towards Newgate-street. All the apartments and cells were broken into, and the prisoners of every description set at liberty; four of whom, for capital crimes, were to have been executed the next morning. The fetters of the felons were knocked off at the shop of a friendly smith in the neighbourhood; after which, some were allowed to walk away, and others were put into hackney coaches, and escorted by parties of the rioters till they were supposed beyond the chance of recapture. About eleven o'clock a very ill looking fellow came out of the prison, with a bunch of keys in his hand, swearing that he had been into

every cell, and that not a single prisoner remained. About twelve o'clock, a sailor, who was standing on the top of the building, almost in the flames, shouted out to the mob below, that he saw four more fire-ships; alluding, no doubt, to the several conflagrations which were then raging by the same incendiary means, in the different quarters of the Metropolis. In a short time this useful building, which had cost £140,000, was reduced to a heap of ruins; though, from its amazing strength, a few determined men might have successfully defended it against any power without artillery.

The mob now separating, as on other days, in different parties, and in different directions, to inflict their summary vengeance on such inoffensive persons as their wanton rage might incline them to select; they attempted Lord North's house, in Downing-street, but were effectually obstructed by an active party of horse; they then assailed and destroyed various other places, and at last fixed their determined vengeance on the house of Sir John Fielding, the Chief Magistrate of Police, whose entire furniture they threw out into the street, and burned in three separate heaps, to make it more imposing. Lord Petre's house, near Grosvenor-square, was to have been the next sacrifice to this furious mob, but a party of soldiers and constables arrived in time to save it; and they marched off, to wreak their disappointed feelings on others less capable to offer obstructions.

It is now to be considered, and grievous it is to consider, that this insurrection, which began under the pretext of supporting the pure system of Protestant Christian worship, was now augmented by the active exertions of all the convicts and prisoners of the largest place of confinement in the country. It is not wonderful, therefore, that their next efforts should be directed against the upright Nobleman who was, at the time, chief administrator of the

... country; and they went with
... dwelling of Lord Mansfield, in
... square. A detachment of Guards be-
... Civil Magistrates gave directions to
... occasion some were killed, and others
... but this check was not given till the
... succeeded in destroying not only the
... the furniture and moveables, but also the
... including invaluable manuscripts, which
... the observations and decisions, as well as
... opinions, during a very long practice, of one of
... highest legal authorities that ever existed in this
... country, or, perhaps, in any country. The rioters
... easily succeeded in setting fire to the house, which
was entirely destroyed. Not satisfied with this degree of vengeance, a large body of the mob set off to attack his Lordship's seat at Caen-Wood, near Hampstead; but they were happily prevented by a strong party of military, who had occupied the house about half an hour before their arrival. They retired, therefore, without doing further mischief on this upright Nobleman, but committing innumerable lesser depredations in their way. One of the great losses sustained by the Public in the destruction of Lord Mansfield's papers, was a quarto volume on the distinct privileges of both Houses of Parliament; which, after the utmost persuasion of the Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry, as well as of other friends, he had consented to give to the Public, and had been writing it out fair for the purpose. The venerable Chief Justice escaped from his house in Bloomsbury-square by a back way; or his life, in all probability, would have been taken. The rioters next directed their fury against the premises of Messrs. Langdales, in Holborn, under the pretext of their being Papists, but, in reality, because they were distillers, and extensive dealers in spirituous liquors; for the mob, having refreshed themselves with the choice productions of Lord Mansfield's cellars, were just

sufficiently drunk to wish for a further supply. They not only destroyed the interior of the houses, as well as some others adjoining, but saturated themselves, as it might be said, with strong liquors, till many of them fell dead into the flames they had lighted, while others marched off, sufficiently active, and sufficiently elevated, to perform any other mischief to which their leaders might think proper to direct them. The domination of the mob, at this time, was paramount to all other government: no carriage could pass through the streets without having upon its sides, in writing, the words "No Popery." The rioters entered the different public-houses and taverns, demanding drink and eatables, for which they offered no payment; and the landlords thought themselves favoured to get quit of their guests on such unexpectedly easy terms. Private houses, also, were not exempted from these visitations, at which, not expecting provisions, the rioters knocked furiously, and demanded money, which they received, according to the means of the occupiers.

On the sixth day of these dreadful tumults, so disgraceful to the country, the malignant violence of the deluded populace, instead of seeming diminished or exhausted, appeared rather to have increased: the horror, consternation, and dismay, which they had succeeded in spreading through the Metropolis, made them eager for more and greater excesses, and their daring was reinforced by the profligate addition of all the prisoners from all the gaols in London, Westminster, and Southwark, which had, by this time, poured forth their atrocious inmates, at the irresistible command of popular menace. About one o'clock in the morning, they went to the Fleet Prison, insisting that the gates should be thrown open; and when this had been complied with, they were proceeding to set fire to the place, but their incendiary purpose was suspended by the prisoners

asking time to remove their furniture. One of their objects, however, was accomplished, by all the debtors being set at liberty. And now every cart or waggon that could be procured was engaged, in removing out of town the property of those who thought themselves liable to attack, or their houses in danger. But the active antipathy of the mob towards prisons did not subside with the liberation of those confined; they were visited again soon after; and the King's Bench Prison, the Fleet Prison, and the New Bridewell, were all seen in flames at the same moment. The idea of attacking the Bank appears to have been adopted as a measure of final triumph; and, had it been made two days before, would in all probability have been successful, and the prosperity of the country thrown back half a century. This was unquestionably the object of many agents of the French Government, who were distributed in the mobs, and were active in directing their operations. I have stated before, that a foreigner took the lead at the riots in Warwick-street; and I know, from an eye-witness, that in the conflict before Newgate, a person in the dress of a chimney-sweep was particularly active; but being killed by some accident, his clothes were opened, and an embroidered dress found underneath, with a splendid diamond cross upon his breast.

The delay of the rioters in this their grand effort against the Bank, had given time to place guards round the building, and to prepare, in every respect, for defending it. The attack, however, was violent and persevering, on all the advances to this depository of national wealth; and the firing of the soldiery, to which they were at length compelled, with the bustle of the rioters to carry away their dead, with the groans of the wounded or dying, and the shrieks of distracted women, made a combination

of horrors such as London had never witnessed before.

The Ministers and the Government were severely censured for want of energy in this terrible emergency, for not having, at the first, put down the spirit of insurrection by prompt and decisive measures. The Ministers, however, were not to blame; and the cause is known, though known to very few, even at this time, to have existed in the King's love for his People, which induced him to run every risk, short of actual revolution, rather than be instrumental in shedding their blood. It was not from any sentiment of timidity or fear in the Royal mind; for there certainly never existed a man possessing more firmness of mind, or a greater degree of personal bravery. At length, however, when it appeared evident that longer forbearance would be a crime against even charity itself, a Privy-Council was summoned, to which were invited, not only the Ministers of the Crown, but all such others as had ever been members of that body.

The meeting was numerously attended, but could come to no resolution, and had actually risen to separate, when the King, fully convinced that the time was now come for displaying the dignity of his mind, as he had already displayed the kindness of his heart, demanded of the Attorney-General what was the best measure he could propose? Thus individually applied to, he answered, that he knew but of one, which was, to declare the tumults rebellious; and to authorize the military to act at their discretion, in suppressing all outrages, whether the Magistrates were present or not. This was exactly what His Majesty had expected and desired; and he immediately directed the Attorney-General to draw up an Order to that effect, in the name of the Council, which was readily performed; the learned Gentleman kneeling at the side of the table, to write it under the King's inspection. A Procla-

mation was drawn up, in conformity to this principle, and issued from the Military Office in the Horse Guards.

"GEORGE R.

"WHEREAS a great number of disorderly persons have assembled themselves together in a riotous and tumultuous manner, and have been guilty of many acts of treason and rebellion, having made an assault on the Gaol of Newgate, set loose the prisoners confined therein, and set fire to and destroyed the said prison: And whereas houses are now pulling down in various parts of our Cities of London and Westminster, and Liberties thereof, and fires kindled for consuming the materials and furniture of the same; whereby it becomes absolutely necessary to use the most effectual means to quell such disturbances, to preserve the lives and properties of individuals, and to restore the peace of the Country: We, therefore, taking into our most serious consideration, have thought fit, by and with the advice of our Privy Council, to issue this our Royal Proclamation, hereby strictly charging and exhorting all our loving Subjects to preserve the peace, and to keep themselves, their servants, and apprentices, quietly within their respective dwellings, to the end that all well-disposed persons may avoid those mischiefs which the continuance of such riotous proceedings may bring upon the guilty: And as it is necessary, from the circumstances before mentioned, to employ the military force with which We are by law entrusted, for the immediate suppression of such rebellious and traitorous attempts now making against the peace and dignity of our Crown, and the safety of the lives and properties of our Subjects; We have, therefore, issued the most direct and effectual orders to all our Officers, by an immediate exertion of their utmost force, to repress the same, of which all persons are to take notice.

"Given at our Court at St. James's, the seventh day of June, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty, in the twentieth year of our Reign.

"God save the King."

In furtherance of this wise and vigorous step, the following General Orders were issued to the Officers and Commanders of all His Majesty's forces in Great Britain:

"GENERAL ORDERS.

"*Adjutant-General's Office, June 7th*, 1780.

"IN obedience to an Order of the King in Council, the Military are to act without waiting for directions from the Civil Magistrates, and to use force for dispersing the illegal and tumultuous assemblies of the People.

"WM. AMHERST, Adjutant-General."

The effect of these proceedings was decisive, though but just in time to prevent national ruin. Numbers of regular troops, and of militia, had poured into the Metropolis, and the imperative promptitude of military command made them available immediately on their arrival, though some of the regiments had marched more than twenty-five miles in the course of the day. The people began to be re-assured, as the different bands of soldiers marched to their appointed stations, in the hope that this unnatural contest would soon be terminated. They were not mistaken in their hopes; but the conflict was most sanguinary. The military arrived in time to defend the Bank, as I have stated already, and to save it from plunder by their firmness, and the tremendous effect of their regular continued firing. Similar success attended the employment of the soldiery in other quarters: the rioters on Blackfriars Bridge were soon dispersed, many of them being forced through the openings between the balustrades into the Thames; while, in other parts, they made a stand for some time, even after the firing commenced, instigated and commanded by the authority of their leaders. It was on one of these occasions that Mr. Herries first performed military service, by commanding, in aid of the Government, the Volunteer Cavalry Association of the City of London. *(o)* He had the consideration, however, to direct his men to use their swords in their scabbards, when dispersing the mob; and thus, though many got broken heads, none were severely

wounded by the serviceable exertions of this corps. Mr. Herries, as colonel, has had the honour, since, of commanding the finest and best disciplined body of volunteer cavalry that ever existed in the world!

The effect of these combined powerful efforts was such, that the terrified inhabitants of this immense Metropolis, who, at night, trembled with the shouts of an unnumbered and infuriated populace, or stood aghast at the sight of flames issuing at once from no less than thirty-six different conflagrations, saw in the morning no trace of what had excited such apprehensions, but smoking ruins, marks of shot, and masses of blood, which pointed out the places of dreadful contest, or the ways by which the wounded or the dying had been carried away by their criminal associates.

The returns made to Lord Amherst, the commander-in-chief, on this occasion, were four hundred and fifty-eight persons killed, wounded, or died in the hospitals: but this is a statement of those only whose death or wounds could be ascertained; but it does not include, as it certainly could not, the numbers that were drowned in the Thames, or the still greater numbers carried off in covered carts kept waiting in the rear of the riotous bands, that those who were inclined to continue the contest might not be discouraged, by seeing the melancholy consequences that had been brought upon their companions in rebellion. I have reason to believe, from the information of some friends who were present on several of these occasions, that the loss of human life, in the whole taken together, could not be less than two thousand.

What shall we say to the man who had brought all this to bear, by means of his countenance and his personal exertions? Shall we say that he has increased the liberties of his countrymen? Shall we say that he has advanced, one step, the peace

and holy religion taught by the Church and by the Gospel? Uncontaminated Protestantism is as adverse to the shedding of blood, as it is to the profanations of idol-worship.

On the second day after these calamitous outrages had ceased, Lord George Gordon was apprehended by virtue of an order from the Secretary of State, and committed to the Tower, on a charge of high-treason. In his examination before the Privy-Council, he shewed great feebleness, and seemed surprised at the results of his own folly: and when he was conveyed to the place of his confinement, the escort was not in the least molested; his discomfited adherents being too intent on concealing themselves from the pursuit of offended justice, to think of him.

It is but strict justice to say, that during these disturbances, Mr. Wilkes, whose popularity had been long and fast declining, tried to regain some portion of esteem from good people, by strenuously endeavouring to assist the efforts of Government.

On the day to which Parliament had adjourned, in order that their deliberations and decisions might be free from all improper influence during the passing events, both Houses met; when the King, unexpectedly, made his appearance in that of the Lords. The attendance of the Commons was then commanded, as usual; and on their arrival, His Majesty, being on the Throne, thus addressed the other two branches of the Legislature.

"My Lords, and Gentlemen,

"The outrages committed by the hands of desperate and abandoned men, in various parts of the Metropolis, broke forth with violence in acts of felony and treason, and had so far overborne all civil authority, and threatened so directly the subversion of all legal power, the destruction of all property, and the confusion of every order in the state, that I found myself obliged, by every tie of duty and affection to my people, to suppress, in every part, those rebellious insurrections; and to

provide for the public safety, by the most effectual and immediate application of the force entrusted to me by Parliament.

" I have directed copies of the Proclamation issued on that occasion to be laid before you.

" Proper orders have been given for bringing the authors and abettors of these insurrections, and the perpetrators of these criminal acts, to speedy trial; and to such condign punishment as the laws of their country prescribe, and as the vindication of public justice demands.

" Though I trust it is not necessary, yet I think it is right at this time, to renew to you my solemn assurances, that I have no other object than to make the Laws of the Realm, and the principles of our excellent Constitution in Church and State, the rule and measure of my conduct; and I shall ever consider it as the first duty of my station, and the chief glory of my reign, to maintain and preserve the established Religion of my Kingdom; and, as far as in me lies, to secure and perpetuate the rights and liberties of my people."

The debate which followed in the House of Peers, on a proposition to assure the King of support in the measures he had ordered to be taken, was warm and animated; but its most striking feature was, the splendid and eloquent speech of Lord Mansfield; which, as declaring the law on a subject of infinite importance to the country, and as coming from one of the most eminent lawyers England ever possessed, should not be passed over in silence.

To prevent any misrepresentations going forth to the public concerning the late proceedings, he said, he thought it his duty to state to the House what is the law of the land; and to declare that every thing that had been done for the suppression of the late riots, had been done, not by virtue of the Royal prerogative, but in exact conformity with the existing laws of the country. No command from the King, no orders from the Privy-Council, can make that lawful which is not so by the statutes already enacted: neither can the military plead any such command or orders, for acts of violence not authorized by law; they cannot be tried for them by a

Court Martial; they are accountable for them to the laws of their country.

His Lordship afterwards stated, that in cases of rebellion, or of such insurrections of the people wherein felony or treason is actually committed or committing, every man has a right to interfere in order to suppress or prevent it. He then described the various acts of felony and treason committed by the late mobs; such as pulling down and setting fire to houses, breaking open prisons, and attacking the Bank; all which amounted to levying war against the King's person and government: and His Lordship particularly dwelt upon insurrections for the purpose of obliging the Legislature to alter existing laws, or to enact any new laws by their compulsion, as acts of high-treason.

The important conclusion that he drew was, that in all these cases, any subject, whether civil or military, has a right to apprehend and secure the offenders; which, if he cannot otherwise do, he may proceed to extreme violence; he may even put them to death: and this is the law of the land. The military, therefore, derived no authority from the orders of the Crown; but, while endeavouring to suppress rebellion, were acting in conformity to the long-established laws of England.

The venerable age of the Lord Chief Justice, his accumulated knowledge, his suffering from the rioters, (for it was now generally known that he had made his escape from their fury in female attire,) all combined to make his address exceedingly impressive; but when, in his last sentence, he said, "This is my deliberate opinion as an honest man, formed without any reference to books, *for indeed I have no books to consult*," a burst of sympathetic feeling pervaded the whole assembly; who mourned for the individual, and mourned equally for the national loss and disgrace sustained by the destruction of such valuable writings.

A few days afterwards, the King prorogued the Parliament, terminating the session with a most interesting address, the concluding words of which ought to be deeply impressed on every Englishman's heart. "Make my people sensible," said this excellent Monarch, "of the happiness they enjoy, and the distinguished advantages they derive, from our admirable Constitution in Church and State. Warn them of the hazard of innovation; point out to them the fatal consequences of such commotions as have lately been excited: and let it be your care to impress upon their minds this important truth, that rebellious insurrection to resist or reform the laws, must end either in the destruction of the persons who make the attempt, or in the subversion of our free and happy Constitution."

If those Noblemen and Gentlemen, who were thus about to retire into the country to their respective estates, to spend some months among their tenants and dependents, were faithful to this injunction, and took pains to inculcate these valuable instructions, emanating from the Royal mind, they must have done more real service to the State and to the Country, than could result from all the long speeches they might be able to prepare before the next meeting of Parliament.

In the mean time, the rioters, who had been taken in London and Westminster, were brought to trial at the Old Bailey sessions; while a special commission was issued for trying in Southwark, such as had been taken up for committing offences of a similar kind in Surry. The charge delivered at the latter place to the Grand Jury, by Lord Loughborough, was perspicuous, eloquent, and impressive; and I shall give some extracts from it, because it is characterized by the extreme of mildness and forbearance; and because it refers to that decisive conduct of the King in council, to which I have attributed the prompt suppression of the

tumults, and which would be known to His Lordship as a member of that body.

"GENTLEMEN,

"The remains of devastation and ruin, of which you have been in some measure spectators in your way to this Court, sufficiently declare the purpose for which you were convened, and the enormity of the offences that will be brought under your cognizance.

"It is to His Majesty's paternal care and vigilance, in the timely exertion of his prerogative, that you are indebted for the suppression of these outrages, and for the restoration of good order and government.

"It is a clear and undoubted truth, that the attack was not partial; that that blow, which it has pleased Divine Providence to avert, was not aimed at any particular descriptions of men; but was meant to strike at the liberties, the laws, and the being of the State.

"Charity obliges us to suppose, that there were unwary and deluded people, whose blind zeal and misguided prejudice seduced them to join the train; but it would be credulity in the greatest extreme, not to suppose there were many in the foremost ranks, who were inspired with the most artful designs and the most malignant intentions.

"You are now acquainted with your duty. Here innocence will meet with its vindication, and guilt will receive the proper animadversions of the laws. If, after the convictions, there should remain any circumstances of extenuation, there is a fountain of mercy in the King's breast, that will be freely, but wisely, poured out, to take from those laws the appearance of severe visitation."

But never before did the beauty of British justice appear with so amiable a lustre, as in both these Courts on this melancholy occasion. When the number of the offenders is considered, together with the magnitude of the offences, and the evidently atrocious designs of those who perpetrated them; when to these circumstances are added, the large rewards offered for apprehending, and for evidence to convict, there could be no other expectation than that of numerous and heavy inflictions. But no harsh or intemperate desire for vengeance actuated

the Judges, or influenced the Juries, in either place; although these Juries were, in a great measure, composed of men whose properties had been destroyed, or whose lives had been endangered by the offenders they were about to try; or by others whose funds were to supply the means of repairing the damages that had been effected: no man was found guilty, but upon the most clear and indisputable evidence; no plea of extenuation, or recommendatory circumstance, was disregarded.

The convictions, in consequence, were very few; and I fully believe, there is no instance in the history of this, or of any other country, in which public indignation has been so highly excited, or in which justice has been satisfied with so small an atonement. There was only one amongst the convicts that did not most penitently acknowledge the justice of the sentence that had been passed upon him.

Lord George Gordon, the foolish, or mad, or criminal leader, in these events, seemed almost forgotten. He made great complaint that his friends were not allowed to come to see him, on account of his close confinement; but he had the mortification of learning, that no persons whatever had applied for admission. He had served the purpose of a set of bad men, more crafty, and perhaps more wicked than himself; and he had lost the esteem, if he ever possessed it, of the wise and virtuous. He was afterwards tried for high-treason; and, though some doubts were entertained as to his criminality reaching that amount, he was brought to an acquittal through the ability of his counsel, Mr. Kenyon and Mr. Erskine. This man, a disgrace to his nobility, got afterwards into new difficulties, for which he was put into temporary confinement; and not having a friend who thought so favourably of him as to become security for his future conduct, he let his beard grow, turned

Jew, and died denying that Redeemer of the world, whose cause he had sought to promote at the expense of devastation and bloodshed.

But though the calamitous results were severe in their action upon individuals, the further consequences, under the guidance of Providence, were beneficial to the country. The rational and judicious part of the people began to see into the probable effects of that animated declamation of Opposition Members in Parliament, which might be excusable as a matter of oratory, while confined to their own walls by privilege, (as had formerly been the case,) but which, when promulgated through the indulgence recently allowed, was taken for matter of fact by the populace; and had contributed to encourage and foment the turbulent spirits of the people, against the King and his Government, for fourteen years. The eloquent opposers of the King's Ministers now found that they were mistaken, in attributing an inclination for arbitrary power to the Sovereign, or to those who administered his Government; while the Ministers, finding this disposition to do them justice, shewed a willingness to allow much for the warmth of debate; so that the inveteracy of party seemed to be considerably diminished.

Having thus accompanied the King through this period of severe trial, in which he had so severely to contend with his benevolence and his duty, I return, with feelings of high gratification, to the chief object of this Memoir. On the 22nd of September, in this eventful year, while the Public were paying unfeigned and joyful tributes to the King, on the Anniversary of his Coronation, a messenger arrived from Windsor, at St. James's, with the intelligence that Her Majesty had been safely delivered of a Prince that morning. That day had been appointed for the Queen to hold a Drawing-Room; and so

little indication had the Royal Mother of her probable indisposition, that it was not thought necessary to contravene the intended Assembly, till the Queen was actually in labour; and thus we have a new proof of the anxious solicitude of this amiable Lady to fulfil her public duties, as long as possible. This young Prince was afterwards christened by the name of Alfred, in the Great Council-Chamber of the King's Palace, by the Archbishop of Canterbury officiating; the Prince of Wales, the Bishop of Osnaburg, and the Princess Royal, being Sponsors. But these ceremonies of public celebration were not the means by which the Queen wished the proofs of her fruitfulness to be remembered. She was fully aware of being particularly blessed in passing so easily through the time of peril, which proves so severe to many others, and she therefore endeavoured to demonstrate her thankfulness to God for this last sign of his mercy, by an extension of her charities, which were very large before. Having, therefore, just received her quarter's allowance, which became due immediately after her recovery, she paid whatever was owing to her private creditors; and then finding she had six hundred pounds left, she ordered five hundred pounds to be immediately distributed amongst poor or distressed householders in the neighbourhood of Windsor, where Her Majesty had been confined. Upon this occasion, as it was upon every other where her benevolence was put forth, it was *under a most positive command that Her Majesty's name should not be mentioned.* That this was held as a principle by the King and Queen in dispensing their charities, a principle with which, as I stated, the Queen set out in the beginning of her married life; I will mention one proof, occurring to the King about this time, to which one of my friends was partly a spectator. This unostentatious Monarch was passing along the streets of Windsor, in his dress of a private gentleman: A poor boy

addressed him, asking for charity in the most piteous tone; and stating that his father lay dead in the house, and that his mother was ill in labour: to which the King, after making inquiries as to his residence, answered, "Go home, and I will come to see." He found, indeed, a scene of agonizing distress, and gave five guineas for immediate relief; telling the boy to come next day to a certain private door in the Castle, and he should have some further assistance. The boy came as he was directed, received a supply of provisions, and gratefully withdrew: but the relieved family endeavoured to perform what they thought to be an imperative duty to their benefactor, whom they now knew, and got a letter of thankfulness put into His Majesty's hands, by one of the pages. The King immediately withdrew his evident assistance; and if any thing was afterwards done by Royal bounty for this poor family, it was administered by agents not connected, at least not apparently, with the King or Queen.—If any other mode of procedure than this had been adopted by the Royal Pair, the whole neighbourhood of every place of their residence would have lost all power of exertion, and would have hung, like a swarm of bees, upon Royal munificence.

I take this occasion to state an instance of this feeling, and of this precaution, in the Queen, which occurred a short time after the period just mentioned. An *honourable* Lady, who was favoured with Her Majesty's kind notice, had been endeavouring to establish, in the vicinity of Windsor, a limited charity for poor lying-in-women, that they might be supplied with such materials as were immediately required for themselves and their infant offspring. This Lady addressed the Queen for countenance to her undertaking, and received such an answer as ought never to be forgotten. Her Majesty wrote, with her own hand, a note expressing her approbation of the undertaking, offering the services of the

Princesses, her daughters, to make baby-linen for those poor women, and a supply of provisions from the Castle, suited to such occasions; but the letter concludes with enjoining the most positive secrecy. This gracious communication inclosed an aid of twenty-five guineas, which sum has been contributed by Her Majesty every year since, through the hands of the same Lady, up to the time of her lamented decease; amounting together to several hundred pounds: and it appears that more than seventeen hundred poor women have been relieved and sustained by this plan of private charitable exertion.

I trust that I shall be permitted to give a facsimile of this letter of the Queen; because it will be an irrefragable proof of those dispositions in her heart and mind which I have already described as evinced on so many occasions: if the letter should be withheld from the Public, it will be entirely owing to the delicacy of the Lady who received it, as the institutor of the scheme, and who is now living.

The King and Queen began, at this time, to experience that interesting fluctuation of numbers, which takes place in every large family; and which, though inevitable, brings with it the tender regrets of painful separation. The Queen, it is true, had not yet ceased to make additions to the Royal stock, by her periodical fruitfulness; yet the number was diminished of those who could associate together. The Prince of Wales had been long detached, as it were, from the parental roof, by having a separate establishment; and Prince William Henry had been entered as a Midshipman in the Navy, under the tuition of Sir George Bridges Rodney, with whom he had sailed, and with whom he had already fought against the combined enemies of his country, in several severe actions. This young Prince, who, by the King's command, was

treated with no more kindness than others of the same rank in the service, was particularly suited for the nautical profession, by the generous openness of his temper, and by his personal intrepidity. The regard and attachment which he inspired, during his stay on service in the West Indies, are proofs of his amiable qualities, and are still remembered with extreme and lively satisfaction by many individuals. This Prince, while yet in his first degree of appointment in the Navy, fancied, one day, that he had ground of serious complaint against a brother Midshipman of the same ship, and began to call him to account in a manner much more authoritative and imperious than suited the feelings of the other, who immediately collared and shook His Royal Highness severely. This rough mode of arguing the point produced a very sudden, and almost involuntary, expostulation from the Prince, "Do you know who I am?"—"Yes;" answered the spirited young tar, "you are Prince William Henry, in London; but you are only a Midshipman, like me, while you are here." The prompt reply to this was a blow; and, though I am not able to assert that the strength of a Royal arm may be qualified to inflict a severer sensation than that of any other person, the effect was an increase of resentment, and a full determination, on the part of the Midshipman, not to be in debt on this kind of reckoning. A long and well-fought battle ensued, and the Prince was thoroughly beaten; but, in a way that does him infinite credit: he held out his hand to his antagonist, acknowledging that he had been in the wrong at first, and offered his friendship. His Royal Highness continued to give proof of this engagement at every opportunity afterwards; and the brave youth became, through the means of such kind patronage, a very distinguished Officer in the British Navy.

The Bishop of Osnaburg, also, at this period, was separated from the Royal House, by going

abroad to visit his Principality, and to shew himself to his subjects. This was an exceedingly proper proceeding; and it should be ever an invariable principle with those who derive revenue from any estates or territories, to make a great part of their disbursements amongst the people that have supplied them. But when others of the Royal Family, on their approach to maturity, went abroad to the same part of the Continent, a cry was raised, by those who will perseveringly object to every thing that proceeds from Royalty, that it was so ordered, for the purpose of extinguishing British, and substituting German feelings in the hearts and minds of the youthful Princes. But I would ask, on this point, Can it be proper to deny to the Princes of the Royal Family those opportunities of observation and inquiry, which tend so powerfully to enlarge and improve the mind, and which every Nobleman and Gentleman in the nation thinks necessary for his sons? It cannot be doubted or denied, that travelling is a most important part of education for those who are eventually to take an active part in governing or legislating for their native country. Let us then look at the wisdom of the Royal Parents in the choice they made of the part of the Continent to which they preferred sending their sons. Had they been sent to France, the inveterate enemy of England, they would have found a licentious and profligate Court, and an artful, gambling, irreligious, and vicious people: had they been sent to Spain, they would have had to contemplate a people nearly a century behind the rest of Europe in general knowledge, and at the same time overwhelmed with that worse than heathen darkness, the darkness of superstition, which enervates the body, and destroys the soul: had they been sent to Italy; there, it is true, they might have contemplated the ruins of Roman grandeur, and have impressed upon their minds that there is nothing truly great or permanent

in its effects, but goodness; yet even there they would have had to encounter luxury and voluptuousness, in all its variety of alluring appearances; and there is none that would have ventured to answer for the consequences. The great Hannibal, who vanquished, in his victorious progress, the mightiest armies that the mighty power of Rome ever sent forth for her defence, sat down, for a winter's relaxation, in the plains of Capua; and there, so lost the vigour of his soldiers, and so much of the vigour of his own mind, that both became afterwards objects of easy conquest, and fled from the Romans whom they had before so often defeated. Should then the King and Queen of England have sent their juvenile sons to France, to Spain, or to Italy, in the hope that they might learn lessons useful to Britain, from Britain's enemies; that they might learn the purity of Protestant worship, at the altars of jewel-bedecked idols; or that they might learn the rigid properties of virtuous abstemiousness where the great Hannibal had yielded to luxury? No, these wise parents would run no such risks; they sent their sons where there were valuable and illustrious relations, to receive, to guide, and to cherish them; and in doing this, they consulted the best interests of their Children and of the Country.

The King and Queen now made the Palaces at Windsor their chief country-residence; and, as it will be the scene of many transactions, which my duty will require me hereafter to detail to the reader, I must offer him some description of those places and their vicinity, as Royal domains.

Windsor is situated at the distance of twenty-four miles from London; and may be pronounced, without hesitation, the most beautiful station in England. From its lofty hill it commands an extensive view over verdant meadows, watered by the never-failing Thames, and clustered with groves, woods, farm-houses, and numerous villas; while the rising

grounds that inclose this widely extended valley, and melt into the distant horizon, are highly cultivated, thick set with towns and villages; the whole together, giving a most impressive idea of the wealth, grandeur, and prosperity of the Country. But the great feature of Windsor itself, is its Castle or Palace, which has been the occasional residence of all our Monarchs from the time of William the Conqueror, who delighted in hunting, and found this part of the country so perfectly suited to the purpose, that he built the Castle, and several lodges for occasional rest or refreshment in the adjoining forest. Various alterations, additions, and improvements, were made in the building by succeeding Princes, in the course of many centuries, till it acquired its present extent and imposing grandeur. The part, however, in which our present Sovereign and his Queen have spent so many months and years in the delightful enjoyment of domestic felicity, was built for the purpose, by his Majesty's direction; and, as a manifestation of his attachment, was, by his order, called the Queen's Palace. It is most delightfully situated near the summit of the hill on which the great Castle stands, and of which it seems to make a part; its walls, its towers, and its battlements, being in the same style. The north-west side of the building runs parallel with the south-east angle of the castle-wall, commanding, on one side, a view of the Castle; and, on the other, a view of the town: the eastern side opens on the Little Park, from which it is separated by the garden. The simplicity, and well-arranged proportions, make it a fine specimen of the castellated manner of building; and its apartments and conveniences render it a most complete and comfortable residence for a large family and an extensive household.

Six of the towers, which contribute so much to give a castle-like appearance to this modern edifice, were subsequently appropriated as residences for

the Princesses; and the interiors now, though fitted up with equal taste, shew decidedly the characteristic pursuits of the amiable and accomplished Ladies that have inhabited them.

The most striking part, however, of the magnificence of Windsor, is St. George's Chapel, which was restored, finished, and beautified, by His present Majesty. It exhibits, in its largest windows, the finest specimens of stained glass that have been produced in modern times, executed with all the splendid advantages of transparency, after the grand designs of Mr. West.

The artist, Mr. Jervais, who contrived these brilliant works to assist His Majesty's intentions, professed to have discovered the ancient process of obtaining pure colours upon glass, and by adding to this the modern improvements in the science of painting, he was enabled to surpass all that former ages had produced. Yet this man was such a niggard of his knowledge, that he determined no one else should possess it; and after enjoying all the advantages of Royal patronage and munificence, he carried his secret with him to the grave. If this were a proper place, I should feel it right to make some observations on the folly, the crime, of thus burying knowledge. It is the very worst of avarice: for the miser who denies himself even the comforts of common existence, in order to amass wealth, still leaves it to be disbursed by his successor; but the man who has grown rich by his acquirements in science, and at his death denies them to society, is an enemy to mankind, and deserves no grateful commemoration.

This Chapel, dedicated to St. George, was a great undertaking at the time it was begun; and seems to have required all the influence and authority of so powerful a Monarch as Edward the Third unquestionably was, to complete it. There is a very scarce record, connected with the com-

mencement and progress of this building, which will be read with great interest. The King soon found the great difficulty he should have in carrying it on; and therefore caused writs to be directed to the Sheriffs of the different counties, requiring them, under the penalty of a hundred pounds, to send him a certain number of masons, within a given time therein specified. Middlesex, Devonshire, and Somerset, each sent forty; as did a few other counties: but some men dying of the plague, and others deserting the service, new writs were issued for fresh supplies. Yorkshire then sent sixty, and other counties in proportion; and strict orders were given, that no one should entertain or harbour any deserters from the works, under pain of confiscation of his property. Upon this the masons entered into a combination not to work at all, unless their wages were raised; and, in consequence of this resolution, they agreed upon certain signs and tokens, by which they were to be known to each other, and to receive assistance in case of their being assaulted for the purpose of compelling them. Determined to be free, and to insist upon their own terms, they called themselves *Free-masons;* and the combination lasted many years. During the civil wars between the rival Houses of York and Lancaster, the discontented masons herded together; and some of the Gentry secretly supporting them, several Acts of Parliament were made against combination-masons, and others under that denomination; the titles of which Acts are to be found in the early printed statutes. The occasion of these Acts has been long since buried in obscurity, and almost total forgetfulness; yet a succession of the name, and of the forms of recognition, has been handed down to these times; and societies of Free-masons exist in different parts of the kingdom, who keep up their lodges or assemblies with great splendour.

The celebrated William of Wykham, Bishop of

Winchester, was the supervisor of the building of St. George's Chapel, for which he was allowed *one shilling a day*, and a shilling extraordinary when he travelled.

There is, in an Act of the Third of King Henry the Sixth, a clause which will, in some measure, account for the secrecy so solemnly sworn to be observed by every man who is made a Free-mason. It recites, "That by yearly congregation and confederacies, made by the masons in their general assemblies, the good cause and effect of the statutes for labourers is openly violated and broken, in subversion of the law, and to the great damage of all the commons; our Sovereign Lord the King, willing in this case to provide a remedy, by the advice and assent aforesaid, and at the special request of the commons, hath ordained and established, that such chapters and congregations shall not hereafter be holden; and, if any such be made, they that cause such chapters and congregations to be assembled and holden, if they be thereof convict, shall be judged for felons; and other masons that come to such chapters and congregations, shall be punished by imprisonment of their bodies, and make fine and ransom at the King's will."—This is the true origin of Free-masons in England.

The rural appendages to Windsor Castle are full of beauties. The great park is diversified with every kind of forest trees, growing in the highest luxuriance. There is a fine avenue through it, of three miles long, planted on both sides, which leads to the top of another hill, commanding an incomparable view of the Castle, the town, the beautiful meanderings of the Thames, and the surrounding country. The whole park is well stocked with deer, and other game; and the circuit is about fourteen miles. The adjoining forest has been immortalized by Pope, in his delightful poem called "Windsor Forest," which has been a standard for

that kind of descriptive poetry ever since. The extent of this Royal forest is about thirty miles, and includes many very pleasing towns and villages.

There is one place in the vicinity of Windsor, which I feel obliged to mention, because it is the seat of an establishment, which constantly looked up to, and experienced, the kindness and patronage of Their Majesties.

Eton is situated nearly two miles from Windsor, in a wide range of beautifully green meadows, on the opposite border of the Thames; over which, for the purposes of mutual communication, there is a stone bridge. This place is highly interesting on account of its College, founded by Henry the Sixth, which our incomparable lyric poet, Gray, has thus apostrophised:

> Ye distant spires, ye antique towers,
> That crown the wa'try glade,
> Where grateful science still adores
> Her Henry's holy shade!

The College is founded for a Provost and seven Fellows, one of whom is Vice-Provost; and for the instruction of seventy King's scholars, on the foundation; who, when they have completed their course of study here, are elected, by seniority, to Scholarships in King's College, Cambridge, according to the number of vacancies, on the first Tuesday in August every year; and no other students can be admitted to Fellowships in King's College, than those who have been on the foundation at Eton. It is now one of the greatest establishments for classical instruction to boys, that the kingdom affords; for, besides the King's scholars, there are seldom less than four hundred boys, chiefly sons of the noble and the wealthy, who are not upon the foundation, and who board at the houses of the Masters, or at other houses within the College bounds. The advantages to the country, and to

the higher classes of its sons, have been great and manifold, from this seminary of youthful instruction being so near to Windsor Castle; for the kind-hearted King and Queen constantly looked upon, and encouraged, the juvenile society: while the youths, having the opportunity of seeing the Royal virtues constantly in operation, and often feeling the benefit, grew up almost to manhood in sentiments of reverence and of loyal attachment to their Sovereign. I shall have the agreeable duty of giving instances, hereafter, to illustrate this point.

The highly beneficial influences of the Queen's admirable example, both as a wife and mother, were evidently increasing, as was manifested in the characters and conduct of those who had the opportunity of knowing, and the means of imitating her. A striking instance of conjugal tenderness, perseverance, and duty, in a distinguished British matron, came before the public at this time, from the elegant pen of General Burgoyne, who had been an eye-witness to their trial and development. It was, in the very interesting case of Lady Christian Harriet Caroline Ackland, a daughter of the Earl of Ilchester, who had married the son of a wealthy and most respectable family in Devonshire. The husband of her choice was a soldier by profession, glowing with the love of arms, and eager for opportunities to signalize his talents and his courage; but when called upon to join the army about to act in America, under General Burgoyne, his feelings of tender attachment to an amiable and accomplished wife, made the attempt at separation infinitely more painful than he had supposed it could be. Lady Harriet, however, soon removed the difficulty; for, with a most heroic spirit, she resolved to accompany her husband, and to share his perils and his privations. The statement of her trials and sufferings, makes an afflicting part of the papers laid, by the General, before the House of Commons, in de-

fence of his proceedings; and I thus extract it in his own words:

"Besides the continuation of difficulties and general fatigue, this day (October the 8th, 1777,) was remarkable for a circumstance of private distress too peculiar and affecting to be omitted.

"The circumstance to which I allude, is Lady Harriet Ackland's passage through the enemy's army to attend her wounded husband, then their prisoner.

"The progress of this Lady with the army, could hardly be thought abruptly or superfluously introduced, were it only for the purpose of authenticating a wonderful story. It would exhibit, if well delineated, an interesting picture of the spirit, the enterprise, and the distress of romance, realized, and regulated upon the chaste and sober principles of rational love and connubial duty.

"But I beg leave to observe besides, that it has direct reference to my subject, to shew what the *luxuries* were, with which (as the world has been taught to believe) the army was encumbered; what were the accommodations prepared for the two thousand women, that are gravely supposed, in the cross examination, to have followed the baggage. An idea so preposterous, as well as false, would have been a fitter subject for derision than refutation, but that it was maliciously intended; not, I am confident, by the Member who asked the questions, but by the persons who imposed upon him, to effect by prejudice, what they despaired of effecting by fact.

"This Lady had accompanied her husband to Canada in the beginning of the year 1776. In the course of that campaign she had traversed a vast space of country, in different extremities of season, and with difficulties that an European traveller will not easily conceive, to attend in a poor hut at Chamblee, her husband, upon his sick-bed.

"In the opening of the campaign in 1777, she was restrained from offering herself to share the fatigue and hazard expected before Ticonderago, by the positive injunctions of her husband. The day after the conquest of that place, he was badly wounded, and she crossed the Lake Champlain, to join him.

"As soon as he recovered, Lady Harriet proceeded to follow his fortunes through the campaign, and at Fort Edward, or at the next camp, she acquired a two-wheel tumbril, which had been constructed by the artificers of the Artillery, some-

thing similar to the carriages used for the mail upon the great roads of England. Major Ackland commanded the British Grenadiers, which were attached to General Frazer's corps, and consequently were always the most advanced part of the army. Their situations were often so alert that no person slept out of his clothes. In one of these situations, a tent, in which the Major and Lady Harriet were asleep, suddenly took fire. An ordinary serjeant of Grenadiers, with great hazard of suffocation, dragged out the first person he caught hold of. It proved to be the Major. It happened that in the same instant, she had, unknowing what she did, and perhaps not perfectly awake, providentially made her escape, by creeping under the walls of the back part of the tent. The first object she saw, on the recovery of her senses, was the Major on the other side, and in the same instant again in the fire, in search of her. The Serjeant again saved him, but not without the Major being severely burned in the face. Every thing they had in the tent with them was consumed.

"This accident happened a little before the passing of the Hudson's River: it neither altered the resolution nor cheerfulness of Lady Harriet; and she continued her progress, a partaker of the fatigues of the advanced corps.

"The next call upon her fortitude, was of a different nature, and more distressful, as of longer suspense. On the march of the 19th of September, the Grenadiers being liable to action every minute, she had been directed by the Major to follow the rear of the artillery and baggage, which was not exposed. At the time the action began, she found herself near a small uninhabited hut, where she alighted. When it was found the action became general and bloody, the surgeons of the hospital took possession of the same place, as the most convenient for the first care of the wounded.

"Thus was this Lady in hearing of one continued fire of cannon and musketry, for four hours together; with the presumption, from the post of her husband, who was at the head of the Grenadiers, that he was in the most exposed part of the action. She had three female companions with her; the Baroness of Reidesel, and the wives of two British officers, Major Harnage and Lieutenant Reynell. But in the event their presence served but little for comfort. Major Harnage was soon brought to the surgeons very badly wounded; and a little time after, intelligence was brought that Lieutenant Reynell was shot dead. Imagination will want no helps to figure the state of the whole groupe.

"From the date of that action to the 7th of October, Lady

Harriet, with her usual serenity, stood prepared for new trials; and it was her lot that their severity increased with their numbers. She was again exposed to the hearing of the whole action; and at last received the shock of her individual misfortune, mixed with the intelligence of the general calamity: the troops were defeated, and Major Ackland, desperately wounded, was a prisoner.

"The day of the 8th was passed by Lady Harriet and her companions in common anxiety: not a tent or shed standing, except what belonged to the hospital; their refuge was among the wounded and dying. When the army was upon the point of moving, after the halt described, I received a letter from Lady Harriet, submitting to my decision a proposal (and expressing an earnest solicitude to execute it, if not interfering with my designs,) of passing to the camp of the enemy, and requesting General Gates's permission to attend her husband.

"Though I was ready to believe (for I had experienced) that patience and fortitude, in a supreme degree, were to be found, as well as every other virtue, under the most tender forms, I was astonished at this proposal. After so long an agitation of the spirits, exhausted not only for want of rest, but absolutely for want of food, drenched in rains for twelve hours together, that a woman should be capable of such an undertaking as delivering herself to the enemy, probably in the night, and uncertain what hand she might fall into first, to me appeared an effort above human nature. The assistance I could afford to give was small indeed. I had not even a cup of wine to offer her; but I was told she had found, from some fortunate hand, a little rum and some dirty water. All I could furnish her with was an open boat, and a few lines, written upon dirty and wet paper, to General Gates, recommending her to his protection.

"Mr. Brudenell, Chaplain to the Artillery, readily undertook to accompany her; and with one female servant, and the Major's valet-de-chambre, she rowed down the river to meet the enemy. But her distresses were not yet to end. The night was advanced before the boat reached the enemy's outposts; and the centinel would not let it pass, nor even come on shore. In vain Mr. Brudenell offered the flag of truce, and represented the state of the extraordinary passenger. The guard, apprehensive of treachery, and punctilious to their orders, threatened to fire into the boat, if it stirred before day-light. Her anxiety and sufferings were thus protracted through seven or eight dark and cold hours; and her reflec-

tions upon that first reception could not give her very encouraging ideas of the treatment she was afterwards to expect. But it is due to justice, at the close of this adventure, to say, that she was received and accommodated by General Gates with all the humanity and respect that her rank, her merit, and her misfortunes, deserved.

"Let such as are affected by these circumstances of alarm, hardship, and danger, recollect that the subject of them was a woman of the most tender and delicate frame, of the gentlest manners, habituated to all the soft elegancies, and refined enjoyment, that attend high birth and fortune, and far advanced in a state in which the tender cares, always due to the sex, become indispensably necessary. It was her mind only that was formed for such trials."

There are some things in the later history of the family of this excellent Lady, which might go to encourage the idea that high virtues may be hereditary. The present descendant of Major and Lady Harriet Ackland is beloved and esteemed by all who know him; devoting his talents to the most active usefulness, in many important, as well as in lesser, pursuits. Those who have heard him, with lively strains of pious eloquence, recommending to numerous and splendid assemblies the duty of furnishing copies of the sacred Scriptures to the destitute Christian, and to the perishing Heathen, have formed a high estimate of his character, even without knowing his virtues in detail.

A circumstance took place at this period, arising out of the distressful warfare that furnished such scenes of trial to Lady Harriet Ackland, which I mention only because it serves to shew the tender consideration and munificence of the King:

Major Andrè, an elegant and accomplished young soldier, had been disappointed of his hopes of happiness, in losing the object of his heart's tender affections; and sought, in the hardships or chances of war, for a termination of that existence which he found burdensome. He displayed great talents, and an undaunted spirit of enterprise; but, unfortu-

nately, he was taken prisoner by the enemy, who put him to an ignominious death, in spite of his supplications to be shot, and not hanged like a malefactor. *(p)* The accounts of this afflicting catastrophe did not reach England till late in November, and His Majesty was greatly afflicted by it: early in December it was publicly announced, that the King had settled, for their lives, three hundred pounds a year, upon Mrs. Andrè, the Major's mother, and her three daughters, successively; having likewise ordered, that Captain Andrè, the brother, should be promoted on the first vacancy. This consideration, and this promptitude demonstrating it effectually, were such as might be expected from such a Sovereign.

Another event became known at this period, though from a very opposite quarter of the globe, which the King deeply regretted, and which the Nation deplored: it was in the deaths of Captain James Cook, and his successor, Captain Clarke. His Majesty, who loved every kind of knowledge, and sought to promote it, had sent out the different expeditions under Cook, as tending to promote the species of science and inquiry most particularly congenial to English feelings and English interest: and the ability with which that accomplished and intrepid circumnavigator executed the arduous duties of the service confided to him, did honour to his country, and conferred essential obligations on the whole of the civilized world. It certainly conveys a very high idea of the grandeur of Britain, as well as of the Sovereign's character, that, while engaged in an inveterate warfare against many powerful nations, and extending over half the globe, she should be yet so powerful, and so attached to scientific pursuits, as to send out her sons and her vessels, for the purpose of giving great and valuable additions to the already extended amount of nautical learning.

The King's Levees, at this time, were splendid, with an unexampled accumulation of learning, talent, and eloquence; as the Queen's Drawing-Rooms were with the lustre of virtue, and the blaze of beauty. It cannot but be delightful to dwell for a while on this interesting period, in order to contemplate some of its shining ornaments:—

The high qualities of the Earl of Carlisle were, now, unfolded, or unfolding themselves. He filled the high office of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, with great benefit to that country, and credit to his own; to which he returned, with increased reputation, to benefit that, also, by his further public services in the Senate, by his fine taste in literature and in the arts, which he patronized most liberally, and by his dignified manners. This accomplished Nobleman possessed qualities which rendered him acceptable in all circles: as a man of fashion, he was courted and admired; as a man of taste, he was looked up to with deference; as a senator, he was listened to with attention. It is useful, as matter of instruction, to notice the early period at which Lord Carlisle began to display these endowments. He was placed, for the earlier parts of his education, at Eton, and was removed, subsequently, to Cambridge; where, while a student, he wrote and published an Ode on the Death of Gray, with three other Poems. He afterwards wrote a Tragedy, entitled, "The Father's Revenge;" which he made the occasion of serving many English artists. His Lordship caused it to be printed in the highest style of British typography: he applied to the most reputed Designer, to embellish it with his tasteful conceptions; and he employed the finest Engravers this country could produce, to furnish the means of multiplying them. The work was most splendid; but the liberal purpose of the Author having been accomplished, by the opportunity of patronizing so many different arts, the circulation of the books was restricted to the

number of his own friends and connexions. The views and feelings of this enlightened Nobleman were also fully exemplified in his conduct to the late Professor of Painting to the Royal Academy, a man of high taste, delicate feeling, and of much more learning than generally falls to the share of members in the same profession. Mr. Tresham had been long prevented, by a severe disorder, from making those high exertions in the painter's art, for which he was eminently qualified, and was, therefore, sinking into a state of extreme necessity. Lord Carlisle knew the value of this gentleman's talents; and, holding out to him the kind and fostering hand of patronage, settled upon him three hundred and fifty pounds a year, as a proof of his estimation of superior ability. Mr. Tresham did not live long afterwards to enjoy the benefit of this independence; but it was the means of administering comforts to his latest existence on this side eternity.

I wish, most anxiously, that I had language sufficiently persuasive, to induce all other British Nobles to follow this shining example, in promoting the literature and the arts of our native country. The state of imitative arts, under any government, will be an unquestionable proof of the people's advancement in civilization; and, therefore, he who assists the one, contributes to promote the other, and is a friend to mankind.

Another great character, which burst forth at this time, was Edward Thurlow; who served, by his talents, and by his successful progress, to shew that, in the free and wise Constitution of England, even the highest honours are attainable to persons of strict probity, ability, and perseverance.

This truly great man was son of the Rector of Arundel, a clergyman more distinguished for his piety and his charities than for his ancestry. The son devoted himself very early to study with unremitted application, and became a member of the Inner

Temple Society, from which he was called to the Bar. He supported himself long by private practice, making little demonstration of his talents in the public courts: yet there were some who perceived his deep penetration, and close method of reasoning, and clearly inferred the prospect of his future elevation. His companions, however, spoke of him, generally, as a hearty, honest, plain, blunt fellow, who would never desert any friend to whom he had once been attached; and they conceived that his contempt for the growing refinement of manners, against which he always spoke with the most sarcastic keenness, would ever be an obstacle to the advancement of his fortune. Notwithstanding this, he was early made one of the King's Counsel, to the great surprise of many who had overlooked him before, as a man of no great talent; and he continued advancing in reputation, though every department of the law was, at that time, filled by men of extraordinary abilities, while the Courts were surrounded with men of high qualifications, eagerly looking forward to official situations. During the frequent changes which took place in the early part of this reign, in almost every Public Office, Mr. Thurlow had some opportunities of shewing that he had talents for public life: but it appears that Lord North was the first who really knew how to appreciate this rough diamond, by whom he was appointed Attorney-General. Being Member of Parliament for Tamworth, he made his first great display of talent in the House of Commons, by most ably defending the conduct and principles of Lord Mansfield, when a proposition was brought forwards for inquiring into the doctrine, with regard to libels, laid down in Westminster-Hall by that Nobleman.

Mr. Thurlow's predecessor in office had been very lenient in his treatment of the many gross and libellous publications, which were continually issuing

forth against the King and the Government; but the new appointment seemed to strike a sort of dread into authors, printers, and publishers: for the numerous political pamphlets and essays, which still inundated the Town and the Country, were of a much less daring complexion than before. This was certainly owing to the rigid firmness, and strict uprightness, of this great man, whose character began now to be understood. For seven years Mr. Thurlow performed the arduous and painful duties of Attorney-General, and was then called to the Peerage, by the title of Baron Thurlow of Ashfield; soon after which he was appointed Lord Chancellor. —The rapidity of this promotion was like a thunderbolt to the opposition Lords; but as soon as they recovered themselves, they determined to try the temper of their new Speaker. The Dukes of Richmond and Grafton, and the Earl of Shelburne, distinguished themselves on this occasion: but his Lordship soon convinced them, that he felt his own importance, and that he would not suffer the lustre of his high office to be tarnished; and he set out with a determination to preserve the order and decorum of the House upon every proceeding. The debates soon took a new character; and the manner of conducting the public business became such, as might inspire strangers with a high veneration for the most august assembly in the world. An instance also occurred at this time, which, though of a more private nature, serves to shew, that Lord Thurlow was actuated by the same inflexible integrity in every thing he did. Upon his advancement to the Chancellorship, an officer, of subordinate degree in his Court, expecting to be removed, as was usual on every new appointment, applied to a Lady for whom Lord Thurlow was known to entertain very tender regards, entreating her to use what influence she had, that he might be kept in his place. This attempt came to his Lord-

ship's knowledge; and he resolved, by a striking example, to put an end to similar applications. He dismissed the officer, on account, as he expressly stated, of this endeavour to employ improper influence; kept the situation vacant for some time; and then re-appointed the same person, that it might appear to be his own act entirely, in serving a man whose worth was well known.

Lord Thurlow enjoyed the confidence of his Sovereign, who was rather pleased than offended with his rough manners, which he never mitigated to any one, in discharging his official duties.—What a ground of rejoicing for Englishmen; and what a source of encouragement is to be found in this short biography! It shews that wealth, fame, and rank, even to that next the Throne, may be obtained by an assiduous correct individual, who brings his talents forwards, and offers them for the public good.

At this time, also, came into notice, though scarcely of mature age, the second William Pitt, son of the Earl of Chatham, and shone out at once in the political hemisphere, with a blaze of judgment and eloquence that dazzled the most experienced; that surprised and delighted those, even those, who had so lately been accustomed to hear the dignified eloquence of his father.—I shall have occasion to speak of this Gentleman again, and therefore I proceed to speak of the Ladies who graced the Queen's Court at the same period:

As the first of these, I must name the Duchess of Devonshire; whose beauty, vivacity, and accomplishments, gave her powers like those of an enchantress, wherever she went. She was graceful, mild, benevolent; and, being from her rank, and known disposition, soon exposed to innumerable applications from persons in distress, never failed to relieve while she had the power, to a degree, even, which invaded the means of the Duke, her

husband; but when, as it often happened, she had nothing else to give to the indigent who supplicated her, she freely gave them her tears. This I am enabled to state from the authority of a Lady who was intimate with her Grace.

The Duchess of Devonshire's talent in poetical composition, was evinced in many little pieces which were published, and are still to be found in some collections: she was a very respectable artist in painting, and possessed an elegant and refined taste, which shewed itself in every thing she did, or caused to be done. Of this a striking demonstration was given in her arrangements for the entertainment given at Devonshire House, to the Prince of Wales, then just coming to his maturity.

The various, the unexampled accomplishments of the Prince, at this early period of his life, rendered it extremely difficult to produce any thing of this nature, that should be equal to the elegance of his mind. At ten o'clock in the evening, the suit of apartments in this magnificent mansion were thrown open, for the reception of His Royal Highness, and the Duchess of Cumberland.

The Ball Room was of great extent, nearly square, and surmounted by a dome, displaying the figure and attributes of Apollo; from which this room was named. The sides of the apartment were, in the usual state, ornamented by ten large and highly valuable pictures, by Vandyke, and other eminent masters; but, on this occasion, they were covered with light, elegant, fancy pictures, by Mr. Rebecca, whose talents, in this species of art, have been known and esteemed all over the country: these new works consisted of architectural recesses, and immitations of sculptured bas-reliefs, in most classical perfection. The centre compartment represented a sitting Minerva, leaning on a Pegasus, implying the presence of Wisdom, to check any improper flights in the Temple of Apollo; the

Muses, representative of poetry, eloquence, and music, were distributed on each side, and interspersed with children, in different pastoral employments; the other Muses were painted over the doors in the same style; and the remaining intervals were filled with trophies, appropriated with great correctness to the occasion. From the centre, at one end of the apartment, which was distinguished by a very large cluster of rose-coloured ribbon, issued nine festoons, of which eight were seventeen feet long, attached, at their extremities, to as many brackets in the cornice, at equal distances, and forming a sort of rural canopy. From the brackets came festoons, which supported eight chandeliers, of fine crystal; while a ninth festoon, in the middle, seemed to support a most magnificent lustre, filled with innumerable lights. The cornice, all round the room, was enriched with festoons and drops of roses, so artificially executed, that they were generally mistaken for real; the seats were covered with rose-coloured satin, and raised above each other so well, that the musicians, who were placed on the highest part of the ascent, and separated from the company by a balustrade, appeared to make a part of Apollo's choir. This splendid Ball Room had five other richly furnished apartments on each side, where various accommodations and refreshments were provided.

The Ball began with minuets, according to the custom of that period, and furnished a new opportunity of displaying the elegance and grace of the Prince for whom this entertainment was given, and who was long considered to be the finest dancer in Europe.

The Lady who could contrive thus to make hospitality doubly acceptable, by adorning it with a degree of taste not known before in this country, must have excited the praise and gratitude of all her guests; but the beauty, and engaging manners

of the fair hostess, engaged the whole attention, and rendered the place, for several hours, a scene of delicious enchantment.

Not many days after this display of festive magnificence, a Noble Lord, remarkable for the sweetness of his versification, thus eulogized the Duchess of Devonshire.

THAT form how resistless, those features how fair,
Each look is a whisper the heart springs to hear,
And fond to interpret, too roguishly given,
Conceives a soft meaning that lifts it to heav'n!
And yet those dear features, I'd readily swear,
The meaning which innocence gives, only wear.

O bow, ye transgressors, in penitence bend;
Against such perfection, what sin to offend!
Yet see in the brightness which darts from her eyes,
With Beauty's mild lustre her clemency flies!
That smile just display'd, to the soul has exprest,
The tranquil composure that reigns in her breast.

May those eyes, and that bosom, for ever, blest fair,
Be undarken'd by sorrow, unruffled by care!
Or if a tear start, or a sigh gently move,
May the tear be of rapture, the sigh be of love!
May your moments all fly on the wings of delight,
And Pleasure's wide regions be still in your sight;
And while you are tempted to ramble the ground,
Let the music of gladness still echo around!

The Duchess of Rutland shone next, with a blaze of beauty, in the Queen's public assemblies, adding the powers of dignity to numerous other attractions. She had every inducement to promote this dignified deportment, being daughter to the Duke of Somerset, and married into a family scarcely less illustrious; yet she had occasion for all the feelings that can arise from a consciousness of high rank, to preserve her in that correctness for which she has ever been admired. This Duchess was left early a widow, when her beauty was in its summer bloom;

and, though admired wherever she went, she was every where revered. She discharged the duties of a mother in a way the most exemplary; and, during the minority of her son, employed herself continually in relieving, benefiting, or patronizing the numerous tenantry on the large domains belonging to this family. The Noble Poet whom I have just quoted, being at Belvoir Castle, the seat of the Dukes of Rutland, thus indulged his muse, in honouring the bright Lady of the mansion:

First in these shades, remember'd with delight,
The gentle Rutland struck my dazzled sight!
As on she came, her eyes diffus'd afar
The peerless lustre of the morning star!
Upon her beautious cheek a blush was spread,
Superior to the loveliest day-break red;
Her waving locks were twin'd with flow'ry braid;
Her vest was with the bloom of Spring array'd;
And to the breeze, that vest display'd the form
Of limbs, which must to love an hermit warm!—
Her panting bosom to the wind unbrac'd,
Shew'd more of heav'n than zealot ever trac'd!
An air supreme in ev'ry step was seen—
The nymphs and shepherds hail'd their Rural Queen:
And as the graceful beauty pass'd along,
The village minstrel greeted her in song;
At intervals a choral strain arose,
And Rutland's name was heard in ev'ry close!

The Countess of Carlisle possessed equal claims to esteem and admiration; but they were of a different kind. The Duchess of Devonshire made beauty doubly interesting, by her vivacity; the Duchess of Rutland made it powerful, by her dignity; but Lady Carlisle rendered its fascinations irresistible, by her retiring modesty. Daughter to a Noble Marquis, highly esteemed for his public and private qualities, and married to the distinguished Nobleman whom I have recently mentioned, she yet gave additional lustre to her rank by the

number of her domestic virtues. To the characters of a most excellent wife, and a tender considerate mother, she added the further praise of being a constant benefactress to the poor wherever she resided. To those who have seen it, it must have afforded most gratifying sensations, to observe the indigent and distressed coming from different parishes, in their days of rotation, to receive provisions at the mansion of this benevolent Lady; and this not merely in a season of pressure or deprivation, but for many months together.

Well might such a character excite the feelings of the Noble Poet, who addressed her, when she accompanied her Lord to his Vice-royalty in the Sister Kingdom:

Soon, Britain, to thy boastful seats
The sweet Carlisle shall bid adieu;
And those bright hills, and green retreats,
By waves be sever'd from her view.

But e'er she leaves thy rocky shore,
Let dutious zeal his tribute bring:
For her, he stills the billowy roar,
And trims the zephyr's lightest wing.

And thou, Hibernia, to thy arms,
With love a sister's joy receive.
Oh! guard her well, whose worth, whose charms,
Deserve each blessing thou canst give.

Still let thy hills, thy valleys green,
Before her steps thy treasures spread.
Her wit will cheer the rural scene,
Her song enliven ev'ry shade.

And when propitious gales shall bear
The beauty to these shades again,
The Queen of Isles her head shall rear,
And breathe her thanks across the main.

I might, happily for England! fill a volume with such characters, such instances as these, and th[illegible]

task would be delightful; but I will restrain myself, and, for the present at least, mention but one more—that is, the Honourable Mrs. Damer; who, in addition to her beauty, and extreme gracefulness of deportment, counts, amongst other accomplishments, one that is not customary with females. She early applied herself to the practice of modelling, in which art she produced many beautiful works: but she carried her enterprises in the sculptor's art still further; and, in despite of the labour and fatigue, she has executed, most successfully, many of her models in marble. This is an example truly worthy of imitation; and I am convinced, that if Ladies in general would select some one pursuit to study, and then give the whole force of their minds to it, as in this instance, society would be more diversified, and private families much happier, than can possibly be the case, while every female undertakes the same studies, and so subdivides her time and attention between them, that there is no chance of great advancement in any.

In the year 1783, the Royal Family suffered a tender loss in the death of Prince Octavius, at four years old: Prince Alfred having died the year before, without having entered his third year. Two more lovely children were never seen; or, as far as could be calculated at that early period, more likely, at a mature age, to gratify the fondest expectations of their affectionate Parents. The heart of the Queen was deeply wounded by these deprivations; and that of the King even more so, if it were possible: but, at the same time, they had consolations, which being of divine origin, could not fail to be efficacious in soothing the poignancy of sorrow, in stilling those murmurs of regret and complaint, which are too apt to burst from the heart of man, when struggling with calamitous visitations. But Their Majesties, at a subsequent period, had a much

more severe trial of this kind, which it will be my painful duty hereafter to state, and which filled their susceptible hearts with unutterable woe.

Of these two lovely young Princes there are portraits, by the celebrated Gainsborough, in the Palace of Buckingham House; from which Engravings will be given in the course of this Work.

But, as if it were provided that the Royal Parents should not be wholly deprived of the delicate enjoyments that are excited and afforded by an infant offspring, Her Majesty, in the August of the same year, gave birth to a sixth lovely Daughter; who became, afterwards, an object of the most tender regard to every one of her Family, and of respect and admiration to all who knew her. In the evening of the month following, this Princess was christened at St. James's Palace. The Peers and Peeresses, Foreign Ministers and their Ladies, assembled in the Queen's Drawing Room between six and seven o'clock, and some time before the ceremony began; from whence they were introduced into the great Council-Chamber, where the Queen was lying on an elegant bed of white satin, under a superb canopy of crimson velvet, embroidered with gold. On the right side of the bed stood His Majesty and the Duke of Cumberland; at the feet His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Princess Royal, and Princess Augusta, having, on each side of them, the rest of the Royal Children, arranged according to their ages. The Great Officers of State, with the immediate Attendants of the King and Queen, and the Visitors, formed the outer circle. The Service, on this occasion, was read in a most impressive manner by Dr. Moore, the newly elected Archbishop of Canterbury. The Prince of Wales, Princess Royal, and Princess Augusta, were Sponsors for their young Sister; who was named Amelia, in compliment to the King's Aunt, who, though not present, was understood to be

one of the Sponsors, being represented by the Princess Royal.

The Queen suffered more in this her last confinement than in any that preceded it; yet her health was ultimately re-established: upon which occasion, the Corporation of the City of London came promptly forwards to address the King:

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

"WE Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons, of the City of London, in Common Council assembled, humbly beg leave to approach Your Majesty, with the sincerest Congratulations, on the Birth of another Princess, and on the happy recovery of your illustrious Consort.

"We would express, with more than ordinary joy, our feelings on this occasion, that Providence has been pleased to answer the prayers and wishes of every order of Your Majesty's loyal Subjects, in preserving the invaluable life of our most gracious Queen—A LIFE SO EMINENTLY USEFUL, AND SO CONSPICUOUSLY EXEMPLARY.

"We earnestly hope that the Throne, thus adorned, may be strengthened and blessed by every addition to your Royal House, and that a long and easy reign may be accompanied by every domestic felicity.

"At the same time we beg leave to congratulate Your Majesty upon His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales having attained the age of Twenty-one years; and hope, that being called to the Council of the Nation, he may contribute to its prosperity, protection, and safety."

The King answered this Address with particular kindness; and the whole party returned to their City, highly satisfied with having so properly performed this important duty, and with the gracious reception they had experienced.—There is a remark which will naturally, I conceive, arise to every one's mind, on reading this Address: it is, that it holds forth to the world an unequivocal proof, on the integrity of the first public body in the Country; that, after twenty-two years' constant observation and experience, they held the Queen's character in even

higher estimation than when her virtues and high qualities first began to display themselves in Britain.

This year opened with an appearance that hostilities were about to terminate, and the greater part of the world about to be restored to a state of tranquillity, if not of cordial friendship. The power of Britain had been fully demonstrated in the latter events of this sanguinary warfare, and her European enemies were greatly humbled; so that the expectation of peace seemed to rest on strong grounds. The King, who from his heart loved peace, looked upon every war as a terrible visitation on the Sovereign or the Country. It is worthy of remark, that the Poet Laureat, in his Ode to the New Year, has, with great ability, embodied these principles and feelings in a most happy strain of beautiful lyric poetry.

ODE TO THE NEW YEAR.

Performed at St. James's, January 1st, 1783.

Ye nations hear th' important tale—
Tho' armies press, tho' fleets assail,
Tho' vengeful war's collected stores,
At once united, Bourbon pours—
Unmov'd amidst th' insulting bands,
Emblem of Britain, Calpe* stands.—
Th' all-conquering hosts their baffled efforts mourn,
And tho' the wreath's prepar'd, unwreath'd the chiefs return.

Ye nations, hear! nor fondly deem
Britannia's ancient spirit fled;
Or glossing weep her setting beam,
Whose fierce meridian rays her rivals dread;—
Her genius slept—her genius wakes—
Nor strength deserts her, nor high Heav'n forsakes.

* The classical name for the rocky promontory of Gibraltar, which had just been so ably defended by Elliott, and so seasonably relieved by the glorious victory of Rodney.

To Heav'n she bends, and Heav'n alone,
Who all her wants, her weakness, knows,
And supplicates th' Eternal Throne,
To spare her crimes, and heal her woes—
Proud man with vengeance still,
Pursues and aggravates e'en fancied ill.
For gentler means offended Heav'n employs,
With mercy Heav'n corrects—chastises, not destroys.

When hope's last gleam can scarcely dare
To pierce the gloom, and soothe despair;
When flames th' uplifted bolt on high,
In act to pierce the offended sky;
Its issuing wrath can Heav'n repress,
And win to virtue by success.
Then, O! to Heav'n's protecting hand,
Be praise, be pray'r address'd,
Whose mercy bids a guilty land
Be virtuous, and be bless'd.
To fill the rising year again,
The stated seasons hold their chain;
The rolling months that gird the sphere,
Again their wonted liveries wear;
And health breathes fresh in every gale,
And plenty fills each smiling vale,
With all the blessings nature yields
To temp'rate suns from fertile fields.
So shall the proud be taught to bow,
Pale envy's vain contentions cease,
The sea once more its Sovereign know,
And glory gild the wreath of peace.

In further confirmation of these agreeable prospects, intelligence was conveyed, in the latter end of January, to the Lord Mayor of London, from Lord Grantham, Secretary of State, that advices had just arrived, stating that Preliminaries of Peace had been signed, at Versailles, by the respective Ministers Plenipotentiary, between France, Spain, and Holland, on one side; and Great Britain, on the other. This announcement excited general satisfaction; though the motives of it were different in different classes of persons: but there were none in the whole country that rejoiced more

sincerely on the occasion, than the King and Queen. I trust I have stated sufficient proofs of His Majesty's pacific disposition, as arising from conviction and principle, to establish the fact with every one. It will then be, at first, a matter of wonder to many, that such a King, so thinking, and so feeling, should have been more engaged in war than any other Sovereign of this Country, since the times of sanguinary contest between the rival Houses of York and Lancaster. But with those, whose contemplations have been directed by a higher species of wisdom, and who, thus directed, have pondered over the great events with which this reign has been connected, the truth stands fully revealed. The whole of the civilized world has been long agitated with convulsive struggles, preparatory to some great and awful consummation in the views and purposes of Omnipotent Power; and the wars which were permitted to take place in the beginning, and in the progress, of the Sovereignty of George the Third, were but parts of the magnificent scheme. It is sufficient for me to state thus much at present; but I shall have occasion to return to the subject hereafter, when, in referring to events within the knowledge of all readers, I may be enabled to change doubt into certainty.

The King issued a proclamation without delay, acquainting the Nation with this change of circumstances in the foreign relations of the Country; and, as soon afterwards as the nature of such proceedings would allow, it was notified by Mr. Fox to the Lord Mayor, that the several treaties of peace had been duly ratified, and made binding; and that a treaty of peace and amity had been finally concluded with the United States of America also.

As soon after the announcement of these facts as proper arrangements could be made, the ceremony was performed of publicly proclaiming peace. On the day appointed for the purpose, at ten o'clock in

the morning, the first company of Grenadiers, and the first troop of Life Guards, came to St. James's Palace; where they first formed along Pall Mall, and the latter formed in the Square before the Royal mansion, having their horses' heads reaching a considerable way up St. James's-street. At half after eleven a trumpet sounded; on which the King's Heralds and Pursuivants at Arms, came down Cleveland-row in the following order:

Knight Marshal's Men, two and two.
Knight Marshal.
Drums.
Drum-Major.
Sergeant-Trumpeter.
Pursuivant.

Sergeant at Arms.	Heralds. King at Arms.	Sergeant at Arms.

Being come before the Palace-gates, the Officers at Arms took off their hats, and the trumpets having sounded three times, the senior Officer present, attended on his left by the next in rank, read the Proclamation aloud: after which, the Officers of Westminster joined the Procession, which moved on to Charing-Cross, in the following order; the kettle-drums and trumpets playing, "God save the King."

Horse Grenadiers, to clear the way.
Beadles of Westminster, with Staves, two and two.
Constables of Westminster, with Staves.
High Constable, with his Staff, on horseback.
Officer of the High Bailiff of Westminster, on horseback, with his White Wand.
Clerk of the High Bailiff.
High Bailiff, and Deputy Steward.
Horse Guards.
Knight Marshal's Men, two and two.
Knight Marshal.
Drums.
Drum-Major.
Trumpets.
Sergeant-Trumpeter.
Pursuivant.
Horse Guards.

Sergeants at Arms.	Heralds. King at Arms.	Sergeants at Arms.

At Charing-Cross, the Officer at Arms, next in rank to him who read at St. James's, read the Pro-

clamation, looking towards Whitehall: the Procession then moved on, with little interruption, to Temple-Bar; where, the Gates being shut, it waited about an hour for the Lord Mayor, the City Procession having been greatly impeded by the great number of carriages that crowded the streets, almost all the way from the Mansion-House. His Lordship being at length arrived, the junior Officer at Arms, coming out of the ranks between two Trumpeters, and preceded by two Horse Guards to clear the way, rode up to the Gate; and, after the trumpets had sounded three times, knocked with a cane. When asked by the City Marshal from within, *Who comes there?* he replied, *The Officers at Arms, who demand entrance into the City, to publish His Majesty's Proclamation of Peace.* The Gates in consequence being opened, he was admitted alone, and they were immediately closed behind him, when he was conducted with great ceremony to the Lord Mayor, to whom he shewed His Majesty's warrant. His Lordship read and returned it, saying, *Sir, the Gates are open;* and the Officer at Arms went back with the Trumpeters and Guards to his place in the Procession, which then moved forwards into the city; the Officers of Westminster filing off, and retiring as they came up to Temple-Bar.

Procession from Temple-Bar.

Grenadier Guards, with their swords drawn.
Four Trumpeters.
Grenadier Guards.
Knight Marshal's Men, two and two.
Knight Marshal.
Drums.
Drum-Major.
Sergeant-Trumpeter.
Pursuivant.

Sergeants at Arms.	Heralds.	Sergeants at Arms.
	King at Arms.	

City Marshal.
City Marshal's Men.
Constables.
City Music on horseback.

Drums.
Band of Music, on foot.
City Marshal.
Lord Mayor.
Aldermen Wright, Alsop, Kitchen, Gill, Picket, and Boydell, with the Deputy-Recorder.
Sheriff's Officers, and Javelin-Men.
Sheriff Turner, and the City Remembrancer.
Sheriff's Officers and Javelin-Men.
Sheriff Skinner, with one of the Deputy-Sheriffs.
Town-Clerk, and one of the City Council.
Horse Guards.
Drums and Trumpets.
Horse Guards, who closed the Procession.

The Proclamation was then read, for the third time, at the end of Chancery-lane, and afterwards in Cheapside, opposite Wood-street, where the cross formerly stood. The whole then moved forwards, in the same order, to the Royal Exchange, where the last reading took place; the trumpets sounding three times before, and as often at the conclusion.

The crowd of anxious people was so great, in waiting for and following the Procession, as almost to obstruct its progress. It was with extreme difficulty the Lord Mayor's coach could move on; and its progress, at any time, did not exceed the rate of a mile in an hour.—The statement of these details may, I can conceive, appear trifling or superfluous to some; but they are records of national ceremonies, and tend to keep alive a spirit of order and decorum. Whenever a nation shall exhibit a palpable relaxation in its public ceremonies, it will be a certain sign of a relaxing state of national manners and principles.

When the Houses of Parliament assembled, soon after the definitive establishment of peace, the King went in state to the House of Peers, where he thus addressed them and the Commons:

"I have the satisfaction to inform you, that Definitive Treaties of Peace have been concluded with the Courts of France and Spain, and with the United States of America. Preliminary Articles have been also ratified with the States

General of the United Provinces; and I am happy to add, that these Powers agree with me in my wishes, to put the calamities of War, for the future, at a great distance.

"The season of Peace will call upon you for an attention to every thing which can recruit the strength of the nation, after so long and expensive a war. In many respects our situation is new. Your counsels will provide what is called for by that situation; and your wisdom will give permanence to what has been found beneficial by the experience of ages. In your deliberations, you will preserve that temper and moderation which the importance of your objects demands."

But this meeting of the Legislature was distinguished by a circumstance which must not be passed over in silence. The Prince of Wales, having just completed his Twenty-first Year, came to the House a short time before the King, in order to be introduced, and take his seat as a Peer of Parliament. He appeared in his robes as Earl of Chester; which, with the Collar of the Order of the Garter, he put on in the Earl Marshal's room; after which the Introduction took place, in the following order:

Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, with his Staff of Office.
Earl of Surry,
Deputy Earl Marshal of England.
Earl of Carlisle,
Lord Privy-Seal.
Garter, Principal King of Arms, in his robes, with his sceptre, bearing
His Royal Highness's Patent.
Sir Peter Burrel,
Deputy Great Chamberlain of England.
Viscount Stormont,
Lord President of the Council.
THE CORONET,
On a Crimson Velvet Cushion, borne by Lord Viscount Lewisham, one of the
Gentlemen of His Royal Highness's Bedchamber.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES,

Carrying his Writ of Summons, by which he was called to Parliament, supported by his Royal Uncle, the Duke of Cumberland, and by the Dukes of Richmond and Portland; and, proceeding up the House with the usual reverences, the Writ and Patent were delivered to Earl Mansfield, the Speaker, on the Woolsack.

These documents were read at the table by the Clerk of Parliament, His Royal Highness, and the rest of the Procession, standing near; after which the Prince was conducted to his Chair on the right hand

of the Throne, the Coronet and Cushion having been placed on a stool before the Chair; when, His Royal Highness being covered, the ceremony ended.—Soon afterwards, the King entered the House, and, having delivered his Speech, retired: when the Prince of Wales came forwards to take the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, and made and subscribed the Declaration; taking, also, and subscribing, the Oath of Abjuration.

This was the first great public opportunity that had occurred for shewing the Prince such as he was, surrounded by all that was illustrious or dignified in the Country; and on an occasion so solemn and impressive, being as yet but just passed the period of timid youthfulness, he shone like a bright star of the first magnitude. The beauty and elegance of his person, the intelligence exhibited in his countenance, and the dignified gracefulness of his deportment, delighted every one who saw him; but when he came to make his reverence to the Throne, there was a kind of sublime grandeur in his manner, that exceeds all power of description. At a subsequent period, when a great impeachment was carrying on in Westminster-Hall, the place was sure to be filled with spectators, if there was the least expectation of the Prince being likely to attend, from an anxious solicitude to see him make his bow to the Seat of Majesty.—I shall return, shortly, to this delightful subject, for the purpose of shewing the great benefits that have resulted to the Country from the taste, the manners, and the habits, of the Prince of Wales.

It will be highly gratifying, now, to contemplate the King and Queen in a state of national peace, and to view the important uses they made of the opportunity, even while a new storm was gathering in the political horizon, pregnant with noxious influences,

at threatened to overturn, or subvert, all that is
ear to Englishmen.

The King was greeted, on the first recurrence of
is Birth-day after the cessation of hostilities, by a
classical tribute from the Laureated Muse.

ODE ON HIS MAJESTY'S BIRTH-DAY,

In June, 1783.

At length the troubled waters rest,
And, shadowing ocean's calmer breast,
Exulting Commerce spreads her woven wings:
Free as the winds that waft them o'er,
Her issuing vessels glide from shore to shore,
And in the bending shrouds the careless sea-boy sings.

Is Peace a blessing?—ask the mind
That glows with love of human kind,
That knows no guile, no partial weakness knows,
Contracted to no narrow sphere,
The world, the world at large, is umpire here,
They feel, and they enjoy, the blessings Peace bestows.

Then, oh! what bliss his bosom shares,
Who, conscious of ingenuous worth,
Can nobly scorn inferior cares,
And send the generous edict forth;
To distant sighs of modest woe
Can lend a pitying, list'ning ear,
Nor see the meanest sorrows flow,
Without a sympathizing tear!

Tho' Rapine, with her fury train,
Rove wide and wild o'er earth and main,
In act to strike tho' Slaughter cleave the air,
At his command they drop the sword;
And in their midway course, his potent word
Arrests the shafts of Death, of Terror, of Despair.

When those who have the power to bless
Are readiest to relieve distress;
When private virtues dignify a Crown,
The genuine sons of Freedom feel
A duty which transcends a subject's zeal,
And dread the Man's reproach more than the Monarch'

Then to this day be honours paid
The world's proud conq'rors never knew;
Their laurels shrink, their glories fade,
Expos'd to Reason's sober view:
But Reason, Justice, Truth rejoice,
When Discord's baneful triumphs cease,
And hail, with one united voice,
The Friend of Man, the Friend of Peace!

The first step His Majesty took in this new situation, was for the purpose of enabling him to confer honours on his Irish subjects, to whom he had shewn the most gracious dispositions from the beginning of his reign. There having been, hitherto, no Order of Knighthood, appropriate to that country, the King caused to be instituted the Order of Knights of St. Patrick; to consist of His Majesty as Sovereign, the Lord-Lieutenant, for the time being, as Grand-Master, and fifteen Knights Companions. The first Installation of the Order took place in Dublin, on the 17th of March, with great pomp and magnificence; proper precautions having been previously taken to preserve the line of carriages from interruption, by stationing the different regiments, then on duty in the City, on each side of the streets. The Lord-Lieutenant then set forwards from the Castle, preceded by his own carriages, containing his Household, the Esquires of the Sovereign, and the Peer who carried the Sword of State; and followed by the Knights Companions, each with his Esquires; no other carriages than these being allowed to move in the Procession.

At the door of the Cathedral of St. Patrick, his Excellency was met by the Officers of the Church, and of the Order, who attended him to the robing-room. Here he put on the full mantle, habit, and collar, of the Order; the other Knights being in their surcoats only, and with their caps and feathers in their hands; their mantles, collars, and swords, having been previously sent to the Chapter-Room.

that threatened to overturn, or sub[illegible]nd notified his dear to Englishmen.

The King was greeted, on th[illegible] was arranged, his Birth-day after the cessati[illegible]llows: classical tribute from the L[illegible]

ODE ON HIS MA[illegible]

Kettle-Drums.
Trumpets.
Pursuivants.
Pages.
Gentlemen at large.
Gentlemen of the Bedchamber.
Master Chamberlain, and Gentleman Usher.
Steward and Comptroller.
Esquires.
Heralds.
Knights.
Usher, Register, and Usher.
Genealogist, Chancellor, Secretary.
Prelate.
Sword of State, carried by the senior Peer.

Aid de Camp. LORD LIEUTENANT. Aid de Camp.

Peers' Sons.
Train Bearer.
Colonel of Battle-Axes.
Battle-Axe Guards.

Upon entering the Choir, the Trumpets, Pursuivants, and other Officers attending the Procession, retired to their appointed places, as did the Members of the Household. The Esquires then, three abreast, advancing, made their reverences to the Altar, when they came opposite the stalls of their respective Knights, and successively withdrew to their proper stations. The Knights next advanced, two and two, and after making their reverences, proceeded to their stalls, where they continued standing till his Excellency was seated, when they bowed altogether, and took their seats. The Choir then performed the Coronation Anthem; after which, the Usher, King at Arms, and Pursuivants, accompanied by the three Esquires of the senior Knight, went out, with the usual reverences, for the Insignia of the Order, with which they returned, thus:

The Principal Esquire, bearing the Banner furled.
The two other Esquires, bearing the Mantle and the Sword.
Ulster, carrying the Great Collar of the Order upon a Velvet Cushion.

When they had advanced to the centre of the Choir, they remained there while the four Great Officers of the Order proceeded to the stall of the senior Knight, after doing reverence to the stall of the Sovereign, who was supposed to be present. The Knight then descended into the middle of the Choir, where he was invested with the sword, the mantle, and the collar, by the Chancellor; and Register, after hearing the admonitions prescribed for each occasion.

Upon putting on the sword; "Take this sword, to the increase of your honour, and in token and sign of the most illustrious Order which you have received; wherewith being defended, you may be bold strongly to fight in the defence of those rights and ordinances to which you are now engaged, and to the just and necessary defence of those that be oppressed and needy."

Upon putting on the mantle: "Receive this robe and livery of this most illustrious Order, in augmentation of thine honour; and wear it with the firm and steady resolution, that by your character, conduct, and demeanour, you may approve yourself a true Servant of Almighty God, and a worthy Companion and Brother of this illustrious Order of Knighthood."

Upon putting on the collar: "Sir, the living Company of the Order of St. Patrick hath received you a Brother, Lover, and Fellow; and in token and knowledge of this, they give and present you this badge, the which God will that you receive and wear from henceforwards, to his praise and pleasure, and to the exaltation and honour of this illustrious Order and yourself."

They then conducted him to his stall, with the usual reverences to the Sovereign, and he seated

himself with his cap on his head: immediately after which, the chief Esquire unfurled the banner, and then the Knight standing up, still covered, Ulster repeated his Style in English; and a Procession was made to the Altar, of the Register and Officers at Arms, attended by the Esquires with the banner, which was delivered to Ulster, who presented it to the Register to be placed within the rails of the Altar. After this, with the proper reverences, the Esquires proceeded to their proper places: and the Officers at Arms renewed the proceedings to the second Knight, in the same order and manner as with the first.

When the whole of these ceremonies were concluded, the Choir sung that part of the Church Service which begins "We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord;" in a manner that added greatly to the solemnity of the occasion: after which, the Procession being formed again, the same as at its entrance, returned to the Chapter-Room, and thence to the Castle; where the Knights reposed themselves till dinner was served. A new Procession was then made, from the Presence-Chamber to St. Patrick's Hall, where the Knights took their seats, covered, and in order; the Grand-Master in the centre, the Prince's chair on his left hand, the Prelate and Chancellor at the two ends of the Sovereign's table, and the Knights on each side; the Esquires standing till Grace was said, when they retired to the seats prepared for them.

Towards the end of the first course, the Grand Master stood up, uncovered, and the Knights Companions having done the same, the trumpets were sounded, to introduce a notice from the King at Arms, that his Excellency, and the Knights Companions of the Most Illustrious Order of St. Patrick, were about to drink to the health of the Sovereign. The second course was then brought in, with the usual ceremonies; after which, the Grand-Master

stood up, the Knights following his example, being uncovered, his Excellency announced, he name of the Sovereign, he was about to health of the Knights Companions. At the second course, all rising again, and , the Queen's health was drunk to, in the anner. The dessert was then brought in, and g the time it occupied, the Officers at Arms, king first their reverences, cried *Largess* three imes, and proclaimed the Style of the Sovereign, as well as the Style of each Knight Companion, who stood up in his place when particularly referred to. After this, the Knights, Esquires, and Officers, attended the Grand Master to the Presence-Chamber, where the ceremony finished: and then the Esquires and Officers retired to the dinner prepared for them.

I have been purposely minute (I trust not too much so) in the description of the forms and ceremonies attending the first establishment of this Order of Knighthood; because it will serve to shew that there is something more in such institutions than their conferring the privilege to wear a star and a ribbon; and that they are calculated to benefit society. If the Knight be religious, the new obligations he contracts by becoming a member of such a brotherhood, his duties will be solemnly enforced by it: if he be a mere moral man, the serious pledge that he publicly gives at the installation, will make his morality more binding: if he be a man of fluctuating principles, it may serve to fix and make him an honourable man for the rest of his life. The statement I have given will go still further; for it will shew how anxious the King was to contrive plans by which his People might be bound to him by ties which would tend to promote moral and religious rectitude.

The Queen, in the mean time, had been success-

fully cultivating the minds of her elder daughters. In these and other similar duties are to be found the praiseworthy achievements of women: for female excellencies are not ostentatious; they retire from notice, and are frequently to be proved by their effects only. The Princess Royal was now in her eighteenth year, and had been recently introduced at Court; which circumstance served, afterwards, to fix the age at which Her Majesty would allow young women to be presented to her for future admission into her public assemblies. How admirable in the conduct of one at the head of female society in the Country, to enforce her principles, by exemplifying them first in her own Family! Her Majesty well knew, from her steady and penetrating observation of English character, that if girls are allowed to think themselves women at an early period, early marriages will oftentimes be the consequence; and, in many cases, misery or separation will ensue. The Princess Augusta was fifteen, and the Princess Elizabeth was more than thirteen; both, therefore, under such tuition, were advanced in their state of mind greatly beyond what the best educated females in this country then were at the same age. The Queen's reading, as I have before stated, was very extensive, directed and supplied, for a long time, by the King's learning, and out of his library; but after the select results of this accumulated knowledge had been poured into the minds of her Daughters, it became necessary to make them acquainted with the forthcoming literature of the day, that they might be fully qualified, and improved, for every species of elegant conversation. To answer this purpose, a general order was given by the Queen to her bookseller, to send her every new publication that he might consider as *good:* and in the choice of a person to whom so important a charge was entrusted, Her Majesty evinced the same judgment and correct discrimination that characterised every

thing she did; for a more judicious or upright person than Mr. Hatchard could not have been found amongst all the number in that line of business. But the Queen sometimes made out lists of particular books that she wished for; one of which lists, as a fac-simile, will be given in the Appendix.

The Princesses, therefore, besides their lighter accomplishments, in which they were very far advanced, possessed, from the rich stores of their minds, the means of conversation beyond any persons of their age; and at the same time exhibited no consciousness of superiority, arising from rank or talent, unless in the superior correctness and kindness of their manners. But to improve still farther these advantages, and to make them useful to others, Their Majesties began to augment their private societies, and to have parties of visitors more frequently than before. While their children were very young, they had confined themselves to domestic enjoyments only; but they felt that the time had now arrived, when it was necessary for their growing Daughters to see and to know others besides their relations and attendants. The King, however, spent as much of his time as possible at Windsor; which, being near the Capital, furnished the means of such society as he wished to have, with the opportunity of fulfilling his duties as a Sovereign; and, at the same time, of being out of the reach of the popular clamours, which, during the preceding years of his reign, had issued from a deluded and wavering populace. Besides, the neighbourhood of Windsor afforded to both Their Majesties those opportunities of performing acts of benevolence in private, which are so gratifying to true Christians. It may be truly said of the King, that, in these periods of retirement, he went about doing good; and, it is well known of the Queen, that she had various female agents constantly commissioned to report to her such cases as

fully cultivating the minds of her c[illegible] Indeed, this
In these and other similar duti[illegible] the kind Parents
the praiseworthy achievement[illegible] were looked up
male excellencies are not c[illegible] reverence, as they
from notice, and are fre[illegible]
their effects only. The [illegible], the King's amiable
her eighteenth year, [illegible] which he evinced at every
duced at Court; wh[illegible] in a way that delighted
wards, to fix the [illegible]. A circumstance occur-
allow young wor[illegible] is highly illustrative of these
admission into [illegible] and Queen arriving at Windsor,
rable in the [illegible] return from London in the usual
society in [illegible], were surrounded by a number
by exem[illegible] anxious to see them alight; amongst
Majes[illegible] very fine little boy, that day put in
obse[illegible] for the first time. His Majesty instantly
all [illegible] the engaging cheerful countenance of the
r[illegible] asked him whose child he was. The
boy answered, "My father is the King's beef-eater."
"Then," said the King, "go down on your knees,
and you shall have the honour to kiss the Queen's
hand:" but the little fellow hung down his head,
and replied, "No; I won't kneel, for I shall dirt
my new breeches." This dauntless repartee, from
a young child, so pleased the King, that he made
the boy a present of five guineas, as an encourage-
ment to persevere in keeping his clothes clean.

It will not be unentertaining to some, to know from what the term *Beef-eater*, as applied to the Yeomen of the Guard, originated. In the time of Henry the Eighth, and his predecessors, there were cupboards or buffets in the King's dining-room, where the confections and sweetmeats were kept; and from which they were served to the Royal table by a set of servants appointed for that purpose, who took the duty in rotation. These, in the Frenchified English of that period, were called *Buffetiers;* which was soon converted into the present plain English name applied to that stout-look-

class of men, the successors of the Buffetiers, the nature of the employment is changed. Royal Sons were furnished with opportu- seeing the world as soon as they were of , and of entering into various society; not easy to do the same for the Royal rs. To obviate, in some degree, this diffi- , the King and Queen made excursions into ous parts of the neighbouring counties, wher- ver there was any thing to be seen or learned, and always took one or more of the Princesses with them. It is most delightful to observe, how these exemplary parents associated their children with them in every thing that could afford gratification or instruction.

On the morning of a fine promising day in September, Their Majesties, with the Princes Ernest, Augustus, and Adolphus, and the Princess Royal, the Princess Augusta, and Princess Elizabeth, set out for Nuneham, in Oxfordshire, to pay a visit to Lord and Lady Harcourt, who were in the habit of receiving marks of Royal esteem and favour; and they meant to return to Windsor the same evening, but the weather changing, and becoming very bad, they determined to sleep that night at Nuneham; and the King, anxious to make the most of every occurrence, resolved to visit Oxford the next day.

As early as ten o'clock in the morning, Their Majesties and the Royal Children arrived at that venerable seat of piety and classical learning. They came in five carriages, attended, besides their suite, by the Earl and Countess of Harcourt; and passing through the fields behind Merton College, alighted at Christ Church. The Royal Party then entered the Cathedral, and, it being prayer-time, seated themselves, and paid devout attention to the service; after which, having viewed the fine windows and other parts usually shewn, they were conducted to the Hall, the Dean's Apartments, and the Library;

from whence they proceeded to Corpus Christi College. There the Rev. Dr. Dennis, President of St. John's College, Vice-Chancellor of the University, preceded by his beadles with their staves inverted, paid his dutiful respects to Their Majesties, and attended them thence to Merton College, and to the Ratcliff Library.

The Royal Party then entered the Public Schools at the eastern gates; and passing through the Divinity School, were ushered into the Theatre, where the Heads of Houses, the Doctors in different faculties, and others, were assembled. Chairs being placed for the purpose in the area of this magnificent saloon, the Royal Family sat for some time, where many of the dignitaries of the University had the honour of kissing the hands of the King and Queen.

The Bodleian Library was the next object of attention; where the King entered into conversation with the Librarian, evincing his extensive knowledge, and various erudition, by his observations and inquiries on what was shewn him. The Librarian was permitted to kiss the King's hand. The Party were then conducted to the Picture Gallery, where His Majesty displayed the same degree of information on the subject of imitative arts, as he had shewn before in literature: the Pomfret and Arundelian Marbles were next examined by the Royal Visitors; and then the Music School, where they were received by the Professor.

Leaving the Public Edifices, Their Majesties proceeded to the Chapel and Library at New College; and thence passing through the gardens of St. John's, (where having seen the Library, Chapel, and Hall,) they were conducted to the Observatory.

From this place, where the Royal Party experienced a very high and instructive gratification,

they proceeded to the Council-Chamber, in which the King received the homage of the Mayor and Aldermen; and having conferred the honour of Knighthood upon the Mayor, all the members of the Corporate Body were permitted to kiss the hands of the King and Queen.

Their Majesties afterwards visited All-souls College, and whatever else was considered worthy of notice in Oxford, and then returned to Lord Harcourt's seat at Nuneham, which they reached at five o'clock. A cold entertainment had long waited their arrival, of which, after so busy a morning, they partook freely, and then set off to reach Windsor the same evening.

We cannot but see, in the account of this little excursion, the advantages, the great advantages, that must have been derived from it by the Royal Children. What they saw must have been exceedingly useful; what they had the opportunity of hearing, must have been still more so; but in the alacrity which the King displayed to make the most of every moment of time, they would find a lesson more important than all.

In conformity with the same principle, the King and Queen began to take a part of their Family to the Races on Ascot Heath and Egham; but this was always done without any ostentatious display of Royalty, the whole appearing no other than as the family of some opulent gentleman of the county. The purpose, with regard to the Children, was thus fully accomplished; and it afforded Their Majesties a fair opportunity of making acquaintance, and of holding intercourse, with the Gentry of the neighbourhood, unembarrassed by the indispensable decorum of Court ceremonials. On one of these race days, at the period to which my relation now refers, the weather being fine, the King and Queen appeared upon the course at an early hour, and were received by the Duke of Queensbury, who gave

them a detailed account of the sports that were about to take place; and of the partialities entertained for certain horses in preference; as well as of the agitations and schemes that were likely to exist amongst the gentlemen of the turf, in speculative-betting. The King listened to this attentively, and even promoted it by his inquiries, because it supplied information to his listening Children; for the Princess Royal and Princess Elizabeth were in the Queen's carriage, and three of the younger children in another carriage, while the King, plainly dressed, and on horseback, like an English country gentleman, paid attention to all, with the most anxious solicitude to promote their amusement and information. The Lord Mayor and his Lady joined the party, and were allowed the privilege of a free conversation, as well as several others, who happened to be upon the ground, that had the honour of being previously known. During the interval of the Races, the Royal Party refreshed themselves with some cold ham, beef, and veal, in the simple style of rural enjoyment; and excited great admiration by their condescension, and by the disposition they shewed to associate, as far as they might, with the surrounding multitude. The King knew that the people generally revered him as their Sovereign; but upon all these occasions he greatly advanced himself in their affections: for it was impossible to know either the King or Queen, without loving them as friends.

Another object of attention for the Royal Family, soon after this period, was the magnificent Palace of Blenheim, near Woodstock; which, together with the estate, is held of the Crown by the Dukes of Marlborough, on the condition of presenting to the King, on a particular day in every year, a certain flag, and doing homage. Their Majesties had been staying on the Saturday and Sunday at Newnham with Lord and Lady Harcourt; and on

Monday morning, accompanied by three of the Princesses, and attended by the Duchess of Ancaster, besides a numerous retinue, they reached Blenheim early. Seven of the Duke of Marlborough's servants, in their green liveries, as foresters, were stationed on the road, to guide the party through Woodstock to the grand entrance; and they were saluted, while passing, by the loud and cheerful acclamations of the towns-people, as well as of a very numerous assemblage of persons from the neighbouring villages.

Their entrance through the Portal was announced, at eleven o'clock, by the firing of cannon from the Fort on an island in the great Lake. The first view of the whole scene, on entering the Park at Blenheim on the Woodstock side, is, perhaps, the finest and most impressive combination that has ever been arranged in the world; and it had such a powerful effect on the King and Queen, accustomed as they were to sights of magnificence and beauty, that they immediately ordered the drivers to relax their pace, and to go slowly on to the entrance of the Mansion, a distance of nearly three quarters of a mile; displaying, but varying, the same kind of grand scenery all the way. The Duke and Duchess of Marlborough received the Royal Visitors on the steps, conducting them through the great Saloon, and a long suit of rooms on the west side of the building, to a grand collation prepared for them in the Library. From this they proceeded to view the other apartments, and expressed the most lively satisfaction with the fine taste, and elegant magnificence, displayed in the pictures and furniture throughout the whole. About two o'clock, a number of the Duke's carriages being ready for the purpose, Their Majesties were driven round the Park and Pleasure Grounds, which presented a great number and variety of beautiful scenes; and, having viewed them all from the most favourable

points, they alighted near the great Cascade, where they spent some time admiring the new improvements, and in complimenting the Duke of Marlborough on the judgment that had directed them. The whole party then returned to the House by the terrace walk, which commands a view of the fine Lake in front of the Palace. The Observatory, with its extensive and complete apparatus, had been reserved as the last object of attention; and it afforded instruction, as well as amusement, to many of the visitors.

The notice of His Majesty's wish to see this great monument of national glory, and of the nation's gratitude to one of its heroic defenders, had been too short to make all the preparations that would otherwise have been made, to give importance to such an event; but one effort was made on the occasion, which I think extraordinary. A Gentleman, who happened to be then on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, wrote the following Verses in the morning of that day, before the King's arrival; and they were presented to His Majesty immediately after the Royal Party had taken their refreshment in the Library.

Dread Sov'reign, hail! a humble bard
His loyal gratulation pays:
Ah! how unequal are his lays
To win a Monarch's great regard.

No Chaucer now delights these groves
With poesy's enchanting sound;
Yet still disport the blooming loves,
And still the graces hover round:
Matur'd by years, improv'd by taste,
Each lovely scene is fairer made,
Than when Britannia's Hero blest
With daily smiles this rural shade.

Illustrious Sire, ordain'd to prove
The ardour of a Nation's love!
By ev'ry Royal gift endear'd,
By ev'ry class ador'd, rever'd;

To Woodstock welcome!—may the day
With brightest lustre shine,
That gives our eyes so rich a feast,
The sight of Brunswick's line.

At Fancy's call, Time's vista meets my sight,
A splendid group of Kings appear,
Who shed benignant lustre here,
And sought these bow'rs with ever fresh delight.

An Alfred's sacred name we boast,
Whose valour sav'd the sea-girt Isle,
Whose genius bade the Muses smile,
And woo'd them to the northern coast.

To Henry's, Edward's, hallowed names!
The Muse recurs with rev'rence due;
But more a GEORGE's worth inflames,
And veils their glories from her view.

O! blest in all that can adorn
The Monarch and the Man;
To scatter happiness intent,
The public good to plan:
What transports must pervade thy breast
When mem'ry aids the Royal thought,
And shews what former Kings possest,
And what thy greater bounty wrought!

In public love, in private bliss,
Unrival'd shines our *George's* reign;
And future ages, envying this,
The charming scene shall paint again.

And may the bard who tunes the lays
In distant ages, tell this Isle,
That *George's* long and happy days
Were cheer'd with *Charlotte's* heav'nly smile;

That riches flow'd, from commerce spread;
That peace and plenty rear'd their head;
That arts were cherish'd by the Throne,
And call'd this happy Land their own.

But while this exemplary King and Queen were thus seeking opportunities of information for their

Daughters, and for their younger Sons, they did not forget how much it was the duty of their high station, to assist in promoting those arts which contribute to the civilization and happiness of the People. The King had the pleasure of seeing now, year after year, the advancement of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture, in the country, as proved by the specimens displayed in the annual exhibitions of the Royal Academy. The number of performances offered for public approval was increased; the merit of those performances was evidently augmented; and the attention of the great body of the people was directed to a contemplation of those arts. These exhibitions made the Metropolis more attractive than before; and besides the probable influence of an established School of Arts, where instruction might be obtained without cost, it cannot but be believed, that those who visited the display of specimens annually made at Somerset House, carried with them an improved taste into the distant provinces, and *there* produced beneficial effects, by a choice in their purchase of manufactures, or by an increased power of making them desirable.

But Music was ever a favourite art with the King, and he conceived that the true style of music was declining in this country. The grand combinations of Handel, the brilliant arrangements of Correlli, the fairy-like melodies of Pursel, and the unaffected rural strains of Arne, were shrinking before the eager desire for novelty. Every thing in music was becoming artificial, rather than natural, and performers seemed more solicitous to surprise than to delight: the composers laboured to introduce as many notes into a given compass, as it was possible for any one to execute; and the performers seemed to consider nothing so good as making their instruments speak in a voice that was never intended for them: the harpsichord had be-

come almost a rattle; the violin-player laboured at the bottom of his bass-string; the violincello-performer tried to produce a fine squeak; and the basson laboured to imitate the soft and lively notes of the German flute.

To set, if possible, all this to rights, in an art which he loved, the King determined to promote some public display of the music of the great masters, and an opportunity at this time presented itself suitable to his wishes. Several Noblemen and Gentlemen of fine taste, had felt and regretted the declining state of music in this country, and had associated themselves together for the purpose of attempting its restoration; and after many deliberations, they fixed upon a certain day, which was the centenary of the birth of Handel, for a grand and solemn public performance of some of the finest compositions of that great master in music. This kind of tribute to the highly esteemed merits of an individual, was not without precedent; for the Jubilee, which had been held but a few years before, at Stratford-upon-Avon, in honour of Shakspeare, furnished a most splendid instance; and George Frederick Handel may fairly be considered as the Shakspeare of music. He travelled early from his native place in Germany, and having visited every court or city in Europe, where any thing could possibly be learnt in his profession, spent the latter, and greater part of his life, in England; leaving behind him a fame that has never been equalled, and a number of works sufficient to have given the character of great industry to more than twenty composers. It was determined to apply to the King for his patronage on this occasion; which, according so precisely with His Majesty's wishes and feeling, he resolved to give the undertaking all the support and countenance in his power. But to render this great celebration, if possible, more interesting and impressive, it was

agreed to connect it with objects of charity, and to divide the net profits between the fund for supporting decayed musicians, and the Westminster Infirmary. Such an arrangement rendered the proceeding greatly more acceptable to the King: and the use of Westminster Abbey was readily granted, for the sacred music; and of the elegant Saloon of the Pantheon, for that of a lighter and more amusing kind. The pieces to be performed were found, when selected, so very numerous, as to require three mornings, and as many evenings, to go through them: the services of the performers were all gratuitous; and so great and general was the desire of those in the musical profession to take part in this exhibition of zeal and of national talent, that vocal and instrumental musicians eagerly crowded to London from every part of the kingdom; and the number of those whose assistance was finally accepted, appears to have been, forty-nine violins, fifty-two second violins, thirty-seven tenors, twelve oboes, fourteen second oboes, eight flutes, thirty violincellos, twenty-seven bassons, sixteen double basses, fourteen trumpets, three trombones, twelve horns, four drums, and one double-drum; in all, two hundred and seventy-nine of the finest instrumental performers in Britain: to whom were added, in the vocal department, twenty-nine cantos, or principal singers, fifty-one altos, sixty-six tenors, and sixty-nine basses; making the whole strength of the orchestra amount to four hundred and forty-three performers. Such a combination of numbers and of talent has never been displayed in the musical world either before or since.

Mr. Wyatt, whose transcendent abilities are perpetuated in many of the finest buildings in this country, was desired to give plans for inclosing the principal part of the Abbey, and for making such other arrangements as the occasion required; and those plans having received the King's approval,

were executed very successfully by the different artificers. The established organ was taken down for this purpose, and another erected over the western door, which had been built for the Cathedral at Canterbury, and was lent by the builder. In the place whence the organ had been removed, was established a grand gallery for the reception of Their Majesties, and all such of the Royal Family as were capable, by their age, of enjoying such a performance: accommodations were also prepared in this quarter for those whose duty it was to attend the Royal Family. This gallery was covered with crimson velvet, and bordered with a very deep gold fringe. A floor, seven feet above the stone pavement of the Abbey, was erected for the whole arrangement, in order that nothing of cold or damp might be apprehended: there were accommodations perpared for more than four thousand persons; and, though the tickets for admission were rated very high, the place was crowded; and as many more tickets might have been sold, could the place have contained the purchasers. The King and Queen were received by the Committee of Managers, on their going to the different performances, at the entrance door in Poet's Corner, and conducted to their gallery, in the centre of which was an elegant Throne, of the best style of gothic architecture, for their reception. It is a circumstance worthy of remark on this occasion, that the kettle-drums used in the orchestra, were those taken by the British troops at the celebrated battle of Malplaquet; and were brought from the Tower, by leave of the Duke of Richmond, for the purpose.

For the evening performances, the Pantheon had been equally well prepared, under the direction of Mr. Wyatt's superior taste; and the effect was most brilliant and imposing. The numerous lights, the elegant dome of the building, the splendid dresses of the auditory, added to the presence of Royalty,

made the whole scene appear like an assemblage created by the fabled powers of fairy enchantment; and when all this was re-enforced by the magic spells of enrapturing and persuasive sounds, it may be easily conceived, that the occasion produced gratification to all, high pleasure to many, and the extreme of delight to the refined lovers of music. Amongst this last class I must count the Sovereign as at the head: his susceptibility, his finely cultivated taste in the art, qualified him pre-eminently for this enjoyment; but it was particularly interesting to the observers on these occasions, to see how the King and Queen were affected by those well-prepared sounds and harmonies, that tended to raise the mind of the auditor in religious adoration. The whole of this grand Musical Festival was such, that I can compare it to nothing of which we have any previous account, but the Dedication of Solomon's Temple.

When music is thus made conducive to the great purposes for which it was intended, how sweet is its voice, how delightful its cadences! But, in its lesser influences, music may be made to soothe the sufferings of wounded hearts, to inspire an enthusiasm in military enterprise, to cheer the social board with excitements to friendly union, and to form the infant mind, by softening with its melodies the lessons of rigid duty. When the art is carried beyond these, its legitimate objects, the influence becomes pernicious, and the exertion disgraceful.

The Prince of Wales appeared at all these assemblies, but he declined appearing in state; and in this we see not only his excellent judgment, but a most delicate regard for his incomparable Parents: it was his wish, on this occasion, that the King should be the great object of popular attention, and his wish could not have been otherwise accomplished.

This leads necessarily, and as a matter of duty,

to a consideration of His Royal Highness's character, as one advancing in society; and advancing with a serious weight of responsibility pressing upon him,—as to the good he had it in his power, and was called upon to do, and the evil that he had the means of preventing by his example. The Prince of Wales shewed very early a fine understanding; and the success which had attended its cultivation, rendered him, in point of intellectual powers and accomplishments, one of the first men in this country. He was, *then*, well read in general and in classical literature; he was gracefully eloquent in speaking; he was a fine musician, and a still better judge; he was thoroughly versed in the principles of the imitative arts; and in painting he was a skilful practitioner. But, to all these high qualities, the Prince added a grandeur of manner, which he derived from his Father, and graciousness of courtesy, which he derived from the Queen, that made him, incomparably, the most complete Gentleman the world had produced. This excellent Prince, wise even in the midst of those allurements which led him into occasional mistakes, saw the good that he had thus the power to render to his country, and to his future subjects; he therefore determined to make exertions for their benefit.

England was then beginning to be, what it has been in a greater degree since, a great manufacturing nation. The commodities of this country were sent out to other nations, frequently in exchange for theirs, or for their produce; but the Prince of Wales contrived, not only to throw the balance on our side, which, in some cases, was doubtful before, but to bring the abundance of foreign revenue into British coffers, and British circulation. He began by converting Carlton House, the place chosen for his residence, into a princely Palace; and it furnished employment for a number of labourers and artificers, as His Royal Highness intended: and, if

the exterior result was not such as might have been wished, the discredit is not to the Patron, but to the Architect, who miscalculated the situation for which he was designing. As soon as this Palace could be fitted for the proper reception of company, the Prince entered on a system of magnificent living, which surpassed all that the country had ever seen before: his chairs, his tables, his sofas, his curtains, his services of plate, were all new, and peculiarly tasteful and grand; and the beneficial effect to the country was exactly what he had calculated: the Nobles, (whose estates in very many instances, were increased to a degree of revenue which they could not expend without indulging in vices that had disgraced the former reigns, and which they well knew would not be suffered in this,) began to expend their accumulated stores in making their houses splendid with newly-contrived furniture and decorations, with innumerable lustres, and magnificent table-services; and this disposition was carried, by the same influence, into their carriages and liveries. But this effect of the Prince's grandeur, as he very well knew, did not stop with the Nobility—it extended itself, by degrees, over the whole country, as circular undulations spread over the bright surface of a glassy lake, when a stone is thrown in to break the tranquillity of its waters. The higher Nobility followed the Prince's example, in order to render themselves acceptable to him; the second rate, because they would emulate the first; and the opulent, all over the country, attempted some kind of imitation, because it was the Prince's fashion. Thus innumerable manufacturers were set to work in the cause of taste and luxury; extraordinary rewards were given to skilful exertion; and even new arts and contrivances were brought forwards, to make elegance, if possible, more elegant.

But the effects of the Prince of Wales's character and accomplishments were not confined to our little

Island, except in the pecuniary result. The fame of his dignified manners, of his conversation, of his taste, and of his magnificence, soon spread all over Europe; and, in a short time, the French, the Italians, the Germans, the Russians, the Poles, *(q)* and even the Danes and Swedes, came over to England, bringing with them their treasures, to learn the true style of polished manners from the Heir Apparent to the Crown of England; and to purchase such materials of furniture, as might carry his exterior magnificence into their own countries. The enthusiastic admiration of these Foreigners for the Prince, after seeing him, was so great, that scarcely one of them returned to his own country, without carrying at the same time, amongst his most valuable acquisitions, a Portrait of the Prince of Wales.

Can there be any in this country who would doubt the beneficial effects of such an attractive, such a dispensing power? A power which not only drew forth the thousands of wealth from native proprietors, but also brought the wealthy from remote nations to make their disbursements in England? If there be any that doubt on this point, it must be those remote manufacturers, who thought not of the cause, while they felt the effect, in the increased prosperity of their employments. But in accomplishing these great objects, which the Prince had at his heart, and in which he persevered with all the ardour of a youthful mind, it cannot be thought extraordinary that he should have exceeded, on many occasions, the means of a limited, though large revenue; for he considered not the means, but the result. The sums that furnished this expenditure, it is true, were derived from the people; but it is as true, that they were returned to the people, with the advantage of having excited the best efforts of taste and labour in the expenditure.

The Prince of Wales's magnificent spirit at this

period of his life may be be judged of, in some degree, by the arrangements and furnishing of his Palace of Carlton House, to which I have alluded already, when he was in his twenty-third year, and when he was beginning to be the object of general attraction. In the apartment where the Prince usually dined, the pannels were white, with gilded mouldings, richly carved; the cornice, frieze, and pediments, were of white and gold, to correspond; and the doors were so contrived, that when closed, they appeared to be only a part of the mouldings of the pannels; the draperies were of crimson damask, and the whole, in an evening, was lighted by three gilt chandeliers, and a number of brilliant girandoles.

Two other apartments are interposed between the Dining-Room and the State Rooms, and are nobly and richly ornamented: many pictures, by the most celebrated masters, serve to give interest to the walls.

The entrance to the State-Room fills the mind with an idea of greatness and splendour; and, at the farther end, appears the State-Chair of His Royal Highness, placed under a canopy of crimson velvet, very richly embroidered with gold: over the canopy are two shields with the Royal Arms, accompanied by the lion, the unicorn, helmets, and trophies, exquisitely carved and gilt by the most able workmen. The Chair is of crimson damask, with a frame superbly carved, and rich with burnished gold. On each corner of the seat is a lion's head, the emblem of fortitude and strength; while the feet of the Chair are formed of intervening serpents, expressive of discernment. Opposite the Chair of State, is a St. George in glory, surmounted by the helmet of Minerva; intimating, that courage is most valuable when directed by wisdom: over the windows, the curtains of which are of rich crimson velvet, and in various other

parts, are finely carved compositions of different kinds of trophies. The pictures of the King and Queen, and of other Members of the Royal Family, add greatly to the splendour and interest of this magnificent apartment.

The Ball-Room exhibits a pleasing contrast to the State-Room, by the beauty, lightness, and elegance of its decorations. The pannels are white, bordered with foliage and flowers, executed after nature; which afford exquisite entertainment to the most minute observer. On each side of the room are placed six very large looking-glasses, bordered with emblems suited to a Ball-Room; and, at the farther end of the apartment, is a magnificent glass, of such extraordinary dimensions, as to reflect every thing in the room. At the opposite end of the apartment, and about eleven feet from the ground, is an Orchestra for Music, fronted with an elegant railing, having, behind, a crimson curtain, tastefully festooned, and supported with wreaths of artificial roses: at all the ties, or fastenings, are small gold coronets, with ostrich feathers, to represent the Prince's crest; and these are continued, at certain distances, all round the room. Many of these coronets appear as if they were richly set with the finest jewels; sapphires, topazes, and rubies. The ceiling is painted to represent the sky, from which are suspended, in a variety of forms, rich festoons of foliage and flowers, so well made, as to exceed all power of description. From the different meetings of these festoons, are suspended fourteen beautiful crystal lustres, holding innumerable lights; and yet so well contrived, that the eye cannot perceive the part from which they are supported. Splendid seats are placed on each side of the room, for the accommodation of the company in the intervals of dancing.

Next to this apartment is a lesser one, magnificently furnished, which serves as an Anti-room to

the Grand Saloon, the most splendid room in the house. It is hung with a figured lemon-coloured satin; the window curtains, sofas, and chairs, being of the same materials, except some in the bow window next the garden, which are of gilt cane. The cornice, mouldings, and doors, are superb, and in the finest taste: the ceiling represents Apollo, the Muses, and the Graces; with other mythological devices, of Jupiter, Mercury, Paris, and other heathen gods and heroes, all conveying some moral lesson. The chimney-piece is a most beautiful design, finely executed in marble, and so enriched with *or-moulu* ornaments, as to impress the eye with an effect of extreme magnificence and splendour. On this are placed two chandeliers of the same material, finely imagined, and executed with such extraordinary skill, as to surpass every thing of the kind that had been seen before in this country. Each chandelier is formed as a palm-tree, round the trunk of which a beautiful nymph is twining wreaths of flowers, while the branches of the tree extend in five different directions, to support as many lights: the centre of the room has a grand chandelier of equal beauty: and the whole together, in striking effect, surpasses every thing of the kind in the world, as exhibiting the Palace of a great Prince.

Such is the description of what the Prince of Wales had made of Carlton House, while yet a very young man; but it has been altered and enlarged since, on many occasions: and it has been enriched by the addition of some incomparably fine pictures of the foreign school; so well chosen, as to evince His Royal Highness's very superior taste. Yet in all this, and in the many splendid entertainments which were given in the truly Royal Mansion, the Prince was not induced by the feeling of a voluptuary; his motives were certainly of a public nature, and he aimed at splendour and expense for

the purpose of exciting liberal disbursements in others: but he could enjoy the most homely and simple refections. Of this I am authorised to state an instance; and let not the learned smile contemptuously upon me, for introducing an anecdote apparently so trivial. It is in little matters that character is demonstrated, more than in the management of occurrences which call forth rather the powers of the head than the impulses of the heart.

Colonel Hanger was in the habit of visiting frequently at Carlton House; and was freely received, on account of the wit and vivacity of his conversation. He had succeeded to the Earldom of Coleraine; but, with great good sense, declined assuming the title till he had paid off, by his economy and prudence, the heavy mortgages which his predecessor had left on the estate: he therefore lived on a very restricted income, and with great privacy. The Prince, very jokingly, said one day to this gentleman, "Hanger, you have often dined with me; but you have never yet invited me to dine with you." The Colonel took this as a playful speech, and answered it accordingly: but His Royal Highness pressing the matter still further, (perhaps out of curiosity,) an engagement was made that the Prince should come alone on a certain day; and the host was required to give him, at least, some one very nice dish that he had never tasted before.

The day arrived, the Prince arrived, and, at the appointed hour *exactly*, was ushered into a neat parlour, where a small table was set out very neatly, and attended by a female servitor. A man of less sound sense, or of more vanity, than Colonel Hanger, would have employed some fine, or celebrated cook, to prepare for his Royal Guest: but *he* did no such thing. There were but two dishes on the table; and the Prince, on sitting down, professed being very hungry: the covers were immediately taken

off, and exhibited on one dish a baked shoulder of mutton, and on the other an assemblage of very brown potatoes, that had been baked under the meat. The Royal Guest smiled at the simplicity of this first course, tasted, eat, and enjoyed it exceedingly, making many inquiries how it was made so good; but keeping some portion of his appetite in reserve for the second course, he said, "Hanger, you have got something else?"—"O yes," said the Colonel, and gave the proper order; when the second course was immediately served, and, on being uncovered, presented another hot baked shoulder of mutton, with other potatoes, the same as before. The Royal Guest laughed heartily, eat of the new dishes with great relish, and declared he had never made a better dinner in his life.

What a display of gracious condescension! what an instructive lesson for luxury!

But the Prince of Wales did not confine the beneficial influence of his example and manners to the circles of the Metropolis; he visited several parts of the kingdom, and joined in the rural sports of country gentlemen, or gave lustre and animation to provincial assemblies: he even extended his visits to some of the northern counties, which had not, for a great length of time, had the honour to receive a Prince of the Royal Family, except the one who came arrayed in the terrors of martial state, to chastise rebellion. On one of these occasions, in a visit to Tunbridge Wells, the Prince of Wales was received with discharges of cannon; and having dined with the most considerable gentlemen of the place, he walked out on the public parade, shewing himself to the eager and gratified spectators: he went to the Ball in the evening, which was unusually crowded: and the whole village was illuminated in sign of general rejoicing. The Prince walked, the next day, for more than three hours in public; and the whole population, for many miles

round, came to see him. Such and so great are the effects produced by the wise condescension of illustrious personages: they dispense joy around them wherever they go, and, by conciliating the poor and the middling to the pre-eminence of rank, they confer blessings on human society. To accomplish these, and the other great purposes of his mind, the Prince of Wales received sixty thousand pounds from Parliament, and the King allowed him fifty thousand pounds a year; a much less sum than is annually expended by many Noblemen and private Gentlemen in this country, who are not called upon in the same degree to make liberal disbursements, as the Heir Apparent to an Imperial Crown and an extended Sovereignty. It is not then wonderful, that with so prince-like a spirit, and with means so evidently inadequate, His Royal Highness should have brought himself into pecuniary embarrassments, that provoked the sarcastic censures of more cautious and cold-hearted persons. I would ask: Supposing the Prince, on his first setting out in public life, to have set out on a plan of rigid economy, keeping a small establishment and a limited society, for the purpose of saving one half, or more, of the income allowed him, what would the nation have said then? It would have been clamoured from one end of the kingdom to the other, that the Prince was meanly shutting up in his treasury, the monies granted to him out of the public revenue, to be expended in sustaining his rank with suitable splendour, and which would otherwise necessarily circulate once more through the country. We may see in this, how difficult it must be to give entire satisfaction to several millions of scrutinizing observers, who all mix the several properties of their respective dispositions in the judgment they form, and which they are never backward to promulgate if the object be in an elevated station.

In the mean time, Prince William Henry had been

encountering the dangers of battle, and the storms of near and distant oceans, in the service of his native land; but, at length, he returned to see it once more, and landed at Falmouth. This young Prince manifested the same desire to make himself acceptable in society, as his eldest Brother; but as his situation was less eminent, and therefore less responsible, he never allowed his expenditure to exceed his means of payment: he manifested, also, the same anxious wish to know and to understand every thing that came in his way; and even to go in search of information, wherever it was seemingly practicable. He was landed from the Hebe frigate, and was immediately invited to Tregothnan, the seat of Lord Falmouth, who assisted his desire of seeing whatever was worthy of notice in the neighbourhood. The next morning, he paid a visit to the Corporation of the Town, and was accompanied by one of them to a great Smelting House, of which he was proprietor; where the Prince inspected the whole process of melting tin, the first article of British commerce with foreign countries, and in which a great traffic was carried on, even when the inhabitants of this island were almost in a savage state. He was regaled with a rump-steak broiled on one of the hot tins, a custom of the place to all visitors of rank; and expressed himself highly pleased with the novelty of the entertainment. He returned to Tregothnan, and went to the Theatre in the evening.

His Royal Highness, next day, went to visit some of the mines of this county, which produce copper and tin, in which he seemed to feel a particular interest; because the Prince of Wales, as hereditary Duke of Cornwall, has a considerable revenue arising from the metal produced out of these and other mines in his Duchy. He examined every thing minutely, asking the most judicious questions; and, being informed, in answer to one of them, that his

Royal Brother received twelve shillings tribute on every block of tin; the Prince said, with his usual good nature, "Well, I am glad of it; for even, though it be *tin* money, George can use it to some good purpose." This was certainly a proof how well he knew and esteemed the munificent spirit of his liberal-minded Brother.

My duty now compels me, for reasons which I have stated before, to turn from the contemplation of private virtues, so gratifying to the heart, and to look on public events of a much less pleasing character. I must, for this purpose, turn to the situation of affairs in the East Indies, which were now drawing to an important crisis, and which produced events, that the Royal Families, and particularly the Kings of this country, will have reason to remember as long as there is one left to ascend the throne.

Hyder Ally, the implacable enemy of the British power in India, after he had concluded a peace with the Company's servants and commanders, which gave him the glory of appearing almost upon an equality with his opponents, laboured indefatigably to strengthen himself for future warfare, with a view to his favourite object, the entire expulsion of the English settlers from the Indian Peninsula. He raised troops, he formed alliances with neighbouring Princes, he added to his territories by numerous usurpations; and being secretly encouraged by the French, to whom peace had restored, with a liberal hand, some of their former possessions, he took the field with a better equipped army than any Indian Chief had ever yet brought forth. The state of the East India Company's concerns was, at this time, in difficulty and embarrassment: they were greatly in debt, as I have already intimated, and they had no control over the conduct of their agents. These agents, from pride, avarice, or some worse motive, were at variance with the military

commanders, and general ruin seemed impending over all.

Aided by these circumstances, and by his numerous cavalry, disciplined, as far as might be, after the European manner, Hyder Ally was enabled to perform extraordinary achievements: he eluded some of the Company's forces by his judgment and activity; he overpowered and defeated others by his multitudes; and spread alarm every where. It is not connected with my purpose to detail wars of any kind; and I shall speak of some instances in this, only because they led to one great result. Sir Hector Munro was the first British officer of distinction, who took the command of the Company's forces, for the purpose of opposing this invading torrent; but his deficiency in strength, particularly in cavalry, prevented his accomplishing any thing great, where the operations necessarily carried on were over so extensive a tract of country: but to say that he stopped in some degree the progress of such an enemy, is no small praise. Hyder Ally was General sufficient to know the importance of harassing his adversary, by keeping him in a state of perpetual activity; which his numerous horse enabled him easily to do. Hyder's situation, in the heart of the country, enabled him to attack, at pleasure, the British settlements on the eastern or on the western shores of India: sometimes he appeared with an overwhelming force in the heart of one territory, and in two or three days with equal power in the other; and he had also the advantage of a number of French officers in his army, to advise in his plans, and to assist in their execution. The British settlements on the opposite coasts of Malabar and Coromandel, were, at this time, under different Governors, independent of each other, and often at variance, or in a state of inveterate opposition; and the combined result of such a complication of adverse circumstances, would have been the

total loss of our Oriental possessions, but for the promptitude, vigour, and judgment of Mr. Warren Hastings; who had been many years in the East India service, and who was then Governor of Bengal. He facilitated and assisted the views and operations of Sir Eyre Coote, who succeeded to the military command-in-chief, with a considerable accession of force. Mr. Hastings likewise sent large sums of money to the Madras establishment, to forward the means of defence in that quarter: and he carried his important exertions still further; for, by his wisdom, and by the influence he possessed on account of his known character for integrity, he succeeded in detaching the Mahratta Princes from their confederacy with Hyder Ally, and even formed a treaty of alliance between them and the Company. Thus was this terrible and inveterate enemy of British India weakened, and exposed on one side by the falling off of his very powerful confederates; while in other quarters he began to feel the superiority of English talents, and English bravery. Yet the efforts that were still made by Hyder Ally were great and alarming, and might have been productive, at least, of those ruinous consequences that arise from a long-protracted warfare: but in the midst of these great events, this shining warrior of Southern India died; whether naturally or not, remains a doubt. His son, Tippoo Saib, inherited all his father's rancour against this country, and had been already brought into the field as a commander; but he felt the difficulty of confirming himself in the usurped sovereignty of his predecessor, without the advantages of peace; and he, therefore, shewed signs of a disposition to accommodate: to which he was, probably, more inclined, because the armies and fleets of the King of England had succeeded in again dispossessing the perfidious French of their settlements in India.

Mr. Hastings, who had contributed so very

materially to bring this dangerous and very doubtful contest to so hopeful a period, was possessed of powers that seldom fall to the lot of one man: he had penetration and comprehension, as a statesman, that would have qualified him for governing the most extensive empires; he was eloquent and perspicuous, in a very high degree, in his public addresses; he was a most elegant writer; he was respected by, and was in correspondence with, all the great Powers of the East, even to the Great Lama of Thibet; he was considered a man of inflexible integrity by all; and, as one single confirmation of these high qualities, I would beg the reader to look at Mr. Hastings' statement to the Court of East India Directors, respecting his conduct to the Rajah Cleyt Sing, Zimendar of Benares, which is, unquestionably, one of the finest pieces of argumentative eloquence in the English language.

But this state of our affairs in India brought on the events which I have more than once referred to. The King's Ministers had been long aware that the government of the Indian territories must come under the control of the Legislature at home, and the Opposition were equally aware of this also; but they acted on different principles: on one side stood the fundamental axiom, that the subjects of the King, however remote, should be liable to his supervision and control; on the other side stood the wants of able, but needy men, who looked upon the wealth of the Indies (as illustrated by the immense fortunes which many individuals had brought home) to be a most desirable object of their ambition. There was, consequently, a ground of approximation in feeling, if not in principle, between the parties usually opposing each other; yet both were tending to one great point. Mr. Burke had been, for many years, complaining of the bad government of the Indian territories, and offering many other

dients, which Parliament and the Company did not think it right to adopt. In all these his political friends concurred; and, therefore, in what I am about to state, I wish to be understood as speaking of those, collectively, who guided the proceedings. Their first measure was to attack those whose exertions in the Indian government had been most vigorous, and to attribute to them the very evils which they had been labouring to suppress; because, if these objectors had admitted any possibility of a wise and able government in those countries, the argument to be used for their own purposes must have fallen to the ground. The first attempt was made upon Lord Clive, after his second service in India; and, though he was successful in combating a first assault, his mind, worn down by fatigue and anxiety, shrunk from a second proceeding, and he fell a sacrifice as I have stated before. The next object of attack was Sir Thomas Rumbold, who appears to have understood the objects of the party perfectly well. He was threatened with a parliamentary inquiry from the same quarter; and feeling himself more able to write to an individual, than to speak publicly in his own defence, he wrote an elaborate account of his conduct in India, which was most elegantly bound; and he transmitted it to the eloquent leader of the intended accusations, with a letter, expressing his hope, that he would find, in the plain statement of his case, sufficient reasons for stopping all further proceedings. As the manuscript was beautifully written, certain leaves of very thin paper were placed between the pages, which seemed to give the text an irresistible impression; for all further attempts to bring this gentleman to an account were immediately laid aside.

The next attack was made upon Mr. Hastings, and for the same reasons; and though Mr. Burke had contrived to get a wish expressed in Parliament

that Mr. Hastings should be recalled, the East India Directors refused to comply with the intimation.—All these measures were preparatory.

When Lord North, with his friends, left the helm of public affairs, in order that peace might be made with the various enemies of England, he carried with him a love for that power and patronage which he had so long enjoyed; and Mr. Fox, who succeeded him under the sanction of the Earl of Shelburne, was no less avaricious of the power and influence which he had once before tasted, and now found so sweet, that he wished to perpetuate the enjoyment. Mr. Fox brought with him into power all the weight of the Opposition Lords; Lord North carried out with him all those that might be considered as attached to the King; and thus the *great families* were divided: but Lord North conceived a compromise was possible, and that, by a combination of the respective influences of the two parties, they should be able to carry into effect a measure which would make the Crown dependent for many years, if not for ever. A disgraceful plan of political courtship then followed, managed with more dexterity than honesty; and at last Mr. Fox and his adherents received with open arms Lord North and his adherents, whom they had been loading, for ten years before, with the foulest terms of opprobrium. An entire union followed, as unnatural as unexpected; and the cordial junction of Lord North with Mr. Fox was trumpeted forth, and declared as a blessing to the country. The offspring of this portentous marriage was such as might be looked for from the nature of its parentage: it was a Bill for vesting the entire power of governing the possessions of the East India Company, having a subjection of near forty millions of people, in Commissioners to be appointed by the House of Commons, who should be permanent for ten years; without being liable, in any degree, to sanction or removal

by the Crown. A more monstrous proposition for creating an independent power in this country, was never exhibited. Some of our Sovereigns have laboured to make themselves independent of the People; at some times the People have attempted to do without any Sovereign at all; at other times the Nobles have laboured to control or circumscribe the Regal power, at least for a time: but on this occasion the evident purpose was, to set up a power in the country, that should be independent of the King, the Nobles, or the People. It must be supposed, that such men would not bring forwards a scheme of this magnitude without having plausible arguments to support it, and loud advocates to support those arguments: such as, the bad government of India; the right of the people to be well governed; the incompetency of a set of merchants to act as legislators for such an extent of country; the expense incurred by government in sending fleets to protect the coasts; and the consequent right, after such recent experience, to direct and legislate when protection was afforded: but the sum and irresistible force of the argument was, that the great body of the Opposition Members having joined the Administration for the accomplishment of this great purpose, they had an overwhelming majority in the House of Commons, sufficient to carry any measure they might think proper to bring forwards. The consequence therefore was such as might be fairly inferred: this monstrous proposition, after being debated for some days, and exposed, in perspicuous and elegant addresses, by the few honest men who had not been included in the recent coalition of the adverse parties, the Bill was carried through its regular stages in the House of Commons by a very great majority.

But, happily for the Country, this nefarious attempt at usurpation had another House to pass through, before it could be presented to the King,

for his sanction, to make it law. In the House of Peers, the temporary influence of one Administration, or another, has little effect: their legislative power is the same, and without interruption, whether they accept situations or relinquish them; and they feel, generally, the responsibility of being the highest Court of Judicature in the land, and of being also the hereditary guardians of the Crown. The Directors of the East India Company entreated to be heard, by their advocates, at the Bar of the House, against the Bill; and pleaded the privilege of their Charter, which one of Mr. Fox's friends in the other House had derided, saying, that "a charter was only a piece of parchment, with a bit of wax hanging to it." The Lords agreed to hear counsel on the subject, and gave the most deliberate attention to their arguments, as well as to the subsequent discussion amongst themselves; and finally rejected Mr. Fox's India Bill, as not fit to pass into a law.

This disappointment of their fondest hopes drove Lord North, Mr. Fox, and their numerous coadjutors, to a state of desperation: it was for the attainment of this measure they had sacrificed their long-continued animosities; it was for this expectation they had sacrificed their credit with the public; it was for the purpose of usurping this immense degree of power and patronage, that they had forgotten their honesty as men, and their allegiance to the kindest of Masters; for if they could have caused the Bill to be enacted, as they hoped by their preponderating influence, they would have acquired a degree of permanent patronage, which would have given them entire command of the other, as they had already of that part of the Legislature which constitutionally governs the expenditure of the state, and which consequently can stop the operations of Government when it pleases. The degree of their disappointment was evident from their manner of expressing it: they did not dare attack the other House of

Parliament for exercising what was no more than a constitutional right; but they fell into invectives against the King, though they were at the same time his servants, asserting that he had been secretly advised, and that the decision of the House of Peers had been obtained by secret influence.

This is one of the great occurrences in His Majesty's reign which have not been perfectly understood, and I trust that I shall be able to explain it correctly. The King, as I have endeavoured to shew from the beginning, and in the course of this Memoir, had a thorough knowledge of the British Constitution, and a devoted reverence for its principles. He knew perfectly well his own station in the admirable arrangement; and he was anxious to keep the other two branches strictly in their relative predicaments, that the freedom and happiness, which had already resulted from the combination, might continue, and even be increased. From the time of his ascending the Throne, he had determined, as I have shewn, to throw off the over-ruling influence of the *great families*; and, while he wished to be the happy medium of new blessings and comforts to the People, he was determined and resolute to refuse every thing, even on that side, that might infringe or endanger the Constitution. What then must have been the feelings of such a King, so conscientious, so well informed, so faithful, to find a Bill likely to pass through the Houses of Parliament, which would have made the influence of the aristocracy permanent; which would have rendered the House of Commons the sovereign power in the country, reducing the King to a cipher, and the People almost to a state of vassalage? If this measure could possibly have passed the House of Lords, the King, consistently with his oath to preserve the Constitution unimpaired, must have refused to give his sanction to it: and as he could not but know what was proceeding, he was likely to explain his

feelings to those who were about him; and the consequence would be, unquestionably, to influence some who might not have looked at the subject before in so serious a point of view. Surely there is no dispassionate man, at this time, who will say that the King, of himself, had not sufficient understanding to see the iniquitous tendency of Mr. Fox's India Bill; surely there are none now, who would not believe that such an assembly as the Peers of Great Britain were sufficiently honest to reject a bad measure, without any impulse of secret influence to direct them.

But the King carried the magnanimous exertions of his mind, thus roused, a degree further, and dismissed from their offices Lord North, Mr. Fox, and their several adherents in the high offices of the State, because they had thus made use of the authority they derived from his countenance, to destroy and undermine the Constitution of the Country.

When thus dismissed, these members of the famous Coalition took with them, by their influence, all the King's servants that had seats in the House of Commons; by which they hoped to bring the Government into the necessity of again asking their services on their own terms: for any of the few Members of the House who wished to serve the King honestly, must go through the ceremony of a new election, by the acceptance of office, and the business of administering to public duties must in the mean time stand still.

The King, however, was too well aware of his duty, and too firm in his integrity, to be overawed by such demonstrations. He saw that the time was fast approaching when he should be compelled to throw himself into the arms of the People for support, against the overbearing influence of particular families; and, if possible, to annihilate it for ever. In these awful circumstances, deserted, abandoned, harassed, and threatened, His Majesty called for

the services of Mr. William Pitt, then in his twenty-third year only, who had but a short time before began his public career, as an advocate for the rights and privileges of the People, and as an enemy to profuse expenditure on the part of the Crown. The selection of such a person for the head of the new Administration shewed plainly the part which the King was about to act, and the Coalition feared an immediate dissolution of Parliament, which would have put an entire stop to their schemes and their power. To prevent this, they availed themselves of the large majority which their union had given them in the House of Commons, to pass an address to the King, praying that he would not interrupt public business by dissolving the legislative bodies; which the King promised not to do, though he could not but be fully aware, that these very persons, professing such a regard for the concerns of the State, were obstructing them by every means in their power. The King's wisdom, as well as his temper and moderation, was manifested in this conduct; for he saw the eager precipitation with which his opponents and persecutors were hurrying on in pursuit of their great object; and that by giving them time, they would more and more unfold the nature of their designs, to the full conviction of the public at large.

As I have mentioned Mr. William Pitt before, only just to announce the time of his first appearing on the great theatre of political contest and debate; and as his conduct and abilities, on the present important occasion, were the means, next to His Majesty's wisdom and firmness, of saving the British Constitution, it will be interesting to have some account of the circumstances which prepared this extraordinary young man for such high duties at so early a period.

The late Lord Chatham, so distinguished, as Mr. Pitt, in the beginning of the present reign, had two

sons; the present Earl of Chatham, and the gentleman of whom I am about to speak. He was the most fond and assiduous of parents: and, therefore, notwithstanding the great public concerns in which he was generally engaged, and the severity of his bodily infirmities, he paid the most solicitous attention to forming the minds of his sons, with a view to their becoming afterwards useful and important servants of the Country, or champions of its Constitution and liberties. In the exercise of these attentions, the judicious father could not but perceive the characteristic differences of his two sons: the elder was distinguished by an invincible diffidence, which is ever fatal to the display of oratorical powers; the talents and disposition of the younger were evidently of a kind likely to ensure success in public employments. The minds of both were clear and vigorous; but the anxious father found he should be able to do most with his son William, and devoted himself accordingly to the arduous duty. At a very early age he implanted in his mind some of the great constitutional principles which had governed his own conduct, that they might unfold themselves in their different bearings, as his education gave new materials; and he habituated him, almost when an infant, to something like extempore speaking. The little boy, while yet not six years old, was accustomed to stand on a table, in the middle of the room, before his father, and to deliver his thoughts, in something like a declamatory way, on some subject proposed to him, which was, of course, always of a nature within the reach of his understanding. His voice, even then, was clear and powerful; and by the continuance of this practice, with the unremitted instructions of his father, William Pitt, at ten years old, might have been called a very respectable orator. But this was not obtained at the expence of neglecting other parts of education; for Lord Chatham well knew, that the more the mind of a public

speaker is cultivated and furnished, the more engaging and impressive will be his eloquence. The attentive assiduities of the child in acquiring rudimental knowledge, and the promptitude and correctness with which he committed to memory the many arduous tasks that were given him, indicated a mind endowed with the most extraordinary powers, and prognosticated his subsequent elevation. But no sooner was his knowledge of the classics, and of the elements of learning, deemed sufficient for entering on the higher branches of literature and science, than he was sent to the University of Cambridge; which was preferred to Oxford by his father, because the reasoning powers of the mind were more particularly cultivated there, and because he entertained the fond hope of perpetuating his own fame in the abilities of his son.

It was here that the character of Mr. Pitt began to form; and it was here that the lessons he had received from his father began to shew their effects. In the private associations of the students, his natural eloquence was observed by all; the rapidity and ease with which he possessed himself of every thing he had to acquire, was known and wondered at; and his tutors and fellow-collegians concurred in anticipating his future greatness. From these feelings and convictions, many members of the University proposed to choose him as a fit and proper person to represent that ancient and learned body in Parliament, though he was so inexperienced in the world, and though he was, as yet, far from the age required for that purpose. Mr Pitt, therefore, declined this honour, for the present: yet, notwithstanding all such reasons, he was chosen Member of Parliament for Poole, in Dorsetshire; as if he were to be forced into public at a time of life when others are still preparing themselves for it by their studies.

Mr. Pitt took the first opportunity that offered,

for displaying his principles and his talents; and poured out, in his first address to the House of Commons, such a rich stream of irresistible eloquence, as astonished and delighted even his adversaries. He was afterwards called to an official situation, under Lord Shelburne; who subsequently claimed the praise of having made him a politician: but he left it when that Nobleman retired, and sat on the Opposition benches, till the impending effect of the *Coalition* induced the King, as I have stated, to command his services, and he was made Chancellor of the Exchequer.

To see so young a man in such a situation, was an object of public curiosity and speculation. His talents, as an orator of the very first class, had been already proved, and his principles stated; therefore it remained only to ascertain how far he might be equal to the regular methods of official business. Those who were envious of his elevation, ridiculed his youth; but the people in general inclined to think, or to hope, that they should see the spirit of the father revived with tenfold vigour in the son. All looked towards him with hope—his friends, that he might ably support the expectations they entertained of him; and his numerous opponents in Parliament, that he would soon, by their strength, and his own weakness, be obliged to quit the high station in which he had been so unexpectedly placed.

To accomplish their object, so ardently desired, the domineering party brought forwards a new motion, in the House of Commons, for addressing the King on the alarming situation, as they affected to call it, of public affairs.

"To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

"We, Your Majesty's most faithful Commons, impressed with the most dutiful sense of Your Majesty's paternal regard for the welfare of your People, approach your Throne to express our reliance on Your Majesty's paternal wisdom; that

Your Majesty will take such measures, by removing any obstacle to forming such an Administration as the House has declared to be requisite in the present critical and arduous situation of affairs, as may tend to give effect to the wishes of your faithful Commons, which have already been most humbly presented to Your Majesty."

The allusion here made was to a string of abstract Resolutions, which had been passed some days before, describing the qualities his Ministers ought to possess; which were ordered to be laid before the King; and which, as they were not specific, succeeded in entrapping some of the independent Members of the House.

It must be remarked, that at this moment the Parliament exhibited to the Nation the unheard-of spectacle of a Prime Minister of the Crown keeping his place, with a majority against him, in the House of Commons, of more than a hundred Members.

To the Address just recited, the King, with his accustomed graciousness, but with firmness and dignity, answered:

"GENTLEMEN,

"I AM deeply sensible how highly it concerns the honour of my Crown, and the welfare of my People, which is the object always nearest my heart, that the public affairs should be conducted by a firm, efficient, united, and extended Administration, and such as may have a tendency to put an end to the unhappy divisions and distractions in this Country. Very recent endeavours have been made, on my part, to unite in the public service, on a fair and equal footing, those whose joint efforts appear to me most capable of producing that happy effect; but these endevours have not had the desired success. I shall be always anxious to take every step most conducive to such an object; but I cannot see that it would, in any degree, be advanced by the dismission of those at present in my service.

"I observe, at the same time, that there is no charge or complaint suggested against my present Ministers, nor is any one, or more of them, specifically objected to; and numbers of my subjects have expressed to me, in the warmest

manner, their satisfaction at the late changes I have made in my Councils. Under these circumstances, I trust that my faithful Commons will not wish the essential Offices of Executive Government should be vacated, until I see a prospect that such a plan of union as I have called for, and they have pointed out, may be carried into effect."

To counteract the possible ill tendency of this interference of the Commons with the undoubted right of the King to appoint his own servants, the Lords, with great wisdom, moderation, and decorum, presented the following Address to the Throne:

"To the King.

"We acknowledge, with great satisfaction, the wisdom of our happy Constitution, which places in Your Majesty's hands the undoubted authority of appointing to all the great Offices of Executive Government. We have the firmest reliance on Your Majesty's known wisdom and paternal goodness, that you will be anxious to call into, and continue in your service, men the most deserving of the confidence of the Parliament, and of the Public in general.

"In this confidence, we beg leave to approach Your Majesty with our most earnest assurances that we will, upon all occasions, support Your Majesty in the just exercise of those prerogatives which the wisdom of the Law has entrusted to Your Majesty, for the preservation of our lives and properties, and upon the due and uninterrupted exercise of which must depend the blessings which the People derive from the best of all forms of Government."

But the Members of the Coalition were not to be corrected or checked by the mild remonstrance of their Sovereign, or the constitutional rebuke conveyed to them in the Address of their brother Legislators: they knew that their advantages were temporary, and they resolved to make the most of them while they lasted, in order, if possible, to make the Crown completely subject to their influence; and they were the more persevering in their measures because the People had begun, as the King [illegible]

mated, to assure him of their support, if he chose to assert his right.

Mr. Fox, therefore, after a short respite allowed, for the sake of common decency, proposed another Address to the King, of which the following passages will serve to convey an idea of the whole:

"We lament that Your Majesty's most gracious endeavours having failed to form an united Administration, should be considered as a final bar to the accomplishing so salutary and desirable a purpose; that Your Majesty has not been advised to take any further steps towards uniting in the public service those whose joint efforts have recently appeared to Your Majesty capable of producing so happy an effect.

"Your faithful Commons, with all humility, claim it as their right, and on every proper occasion feel it as their bounden duty, to advise Your Majesty touching the exercise of any branch of your Royal Prerogative.

"We submit it to Your Majesty, that the continuance of an Administration which does not possess the confidence of the Representatives of the People, must be injurious to the public service.

"Your Majesty's faithful Commons, upon the most mature deliberation, cannot but consider the continuance of the present Ministers as an unwarrantable obstacle to Your Majesty's most gracious purpose, to comply with our wishes in forming such an Administration as Your Majesty, in concurrence with the unanimous Resolutions of your faithful Commons, seems to think requisite in the present exigency of the Country. We feel ourselves bound to remain firm in the wish expressed to Your Majesty, in our late humble Address; and do, therefore, find ourselves obliged again to beseech Your Majesty, that you would be graciously pleased to lay the foundations of a strong and stable Government, by the previous removal of your present Ministers."

This Address to the Throne was carried by a large but diminished majority; and on its being presented, the King thus answered:

"GENTLEMEN,

"I HAVE already expressed to you how sensible I am of the advantages to be derived from such an Administration as

was described in your unanimous Resolutions; and I assured you, that I was desirous of taking every step most conducive to such an object.—I remain in the same sentiments; but I continue equally convinced, that it is an object not likely to be obtained by the dismission of my present Ministers.

"I must repeat, that no charge or complaint, or any specific objection, is yet made against any one of them. If there were any such ground for their removal at present, it ought to be equally a reason for not admitting them as a part of that extended and united Administration which you state to be requisite.

"I have never called in question the right of my faithful Commons to offer me their advice upon every proper occasion, touching the exercise of any branch of my Prerogative: I shall be ready at all times to receive it, and give it the most attentive consideration: And they will ever find me disposed to shew my regard to the true principles of the Constitution, and to take such measures as may best conduce to the satisfaction and prosperity of my People."

This firmness and moderation of the King might have been sufficient to correct the proceedings of the Coalition, had those proceedings originated in an error of judgment: but the game these persons had to play, and in which they were mutually pledged to persevere, was now growing desperate; and, therefore, as the chances of success diminished, the efforts they made were more vigorous and decisive. Mr. Fox, in consequence, moved a string of Resolutions to be laid before the King; preferring this mode rather than that of Address, because the latter had twice failed of producing its desired object; and because the former allowed of stronger and less respectful modes of expression. The following passages in this extraordinary paper, will give the reader some idea of its nature and tendency:

"RESOLVED,

"That an humble Representation be presented to His Majesty, most humbly to testify the surprise and affliction of the House, on receiving the Answer which His Majesty

Ministers have advised, to the dutiful and seasonable Address of this House, concerning one of the most important Acts of His Majesty's Government:—

"To express our concern that His Majesty should still be induced to prefer the opinions of individuals, to the repeated advice of the Representatives of his People in Parliament assembled:—

"To represent to His Majesty, that a preference of this nature is as injurious to the true interest of the Crown, as it is wholly repugnant to the spirit of our Constitution; that systems formed on such preference are not in truth entirely new in this country; that they have been the characteristic features of those unfortunate reigns, the maxims of which are now justly and universally exploded:—

"To assure His Majesty, that we neither have disputed, nor mean in any instance to dispute, much less to deny, His Majesty's undoubted prerogative of appointing to the Executive Offices of the State, such as to his wisdom shall seem meet. But at the same time that we must, with all humility, again submit to His Majesty's Royal wisdom, that no Administration, however legally appointed, can serve His Majesty and the Public with effect, which does not enjoy the confidence of this House. That in His Majesty's present Administration we cannot confide: the circumstances under which it was constituted, and the grounds upon which it continues, have created just suspicions in the breasts of his faithful Commons, that principles are adopted, and views entertained, unfriendly to the privileges of this House, and to the freedom of our excellent Constitution. That we have made no charges against any of them, *because it is their removal*, and not their punishment, that we have desired: and we humbly conceive that we are warranted, by the ancient usage of this House, to desire such removal without making any charge whatever:—

"To recall to His Majesty's recollection, that his faithful Commons have already submitted to His Majesty, most humbly, but most distinctly, their opinion upon this subject: that they have no interests but those of His Majesty and their Constituents; whereas it is needless to suggest to His Majesty, that individual advisers may be actuated by very different motives:—

"To represent to His Majesty, that it has anciently been the practice of this House to *withhold supplies* until grievances were redressed; and that if we were to follow this course in the present conjuncture, we should be warranted

in our proceeding, as well by the most approved precedents, as by the spirit of the Constitution itself: but if, in consideration of the very peculiar exigencies of the times, we should be induced to wave for the present, in this instance, our undoubted legal and constitutional mode of obtaining redress, that we humbly implore His Majesty not to impute our forbearance to any want of sincerity in our complaints, or distrust in the justice of our cause."

The perusal of these extracts from the Resolutions brought forwards by Mr. Fox, will bring, I doubt not, to the reader's mind, some of those bold remonstrances of Parliament in the time of Charles the First, which brought on rebellion and civil war. The insolence and affected forbearance of the last paragraph is most particularly disgraceful, as containing a falsehood; for this Coalition Parliament had repeatedly, on the suggestion of Mr. Fox, voted the *postponement* of those supplies which were necessary for carrying on the business of Government. But in pressing their object with so much eagerness, they had fully disclosed their intentions, and had disgusted the more moderate part of their adherents; so that when the question came to be put, for passing the Resolutions, the proposal was carried by a majority of ONE!

Here ended the power of that Coalition, so stigmatized by all honest men, and so disgraceful to the persons concerned in it; for the King was now (it being near the usual time for closing the sessions) enabled, without breach of his promise, to listen to the supplications of his People, poured in from all quarters, entreating him to dissolve the Parliament, and to rely on their exertions for sending him a new one, imbued with better principles and a better spirit.

In compliance with these wishes, His Majesty went in state, on the twenty-fifth of March, to the House of Peers, and gave his assent to several Bills; after which the attendance of the Commons [illegible]

required, and he then put an end to this extraordinary session in the following concise Address.

"My Lords, and Gentlemen,

"On a full consideration of the present situation of affairs, and of the extraordinary circumstances which have produced it, I am induced to put an end to this session of Parliament: I feel it a duty which I owe to the Constitution and the Country in such a situation, to recur, as speedily as possible, to the sense of the People, by calling a new Parliament.

"I trust this measure will tend to obviate the mischiefs arising from the unhappy divisions and distractions which have lately subsisted; and that the various important objects which will require consideration, may be afterwards proceeded upon with less interruption, and with happier effect.

"I can have no other object, but to preserve the true principles of our free and happy Constitution, and to employ the powers entrusted to me by law, for the only end for which they were given, the good of my People."

Immediately afterwards the Parliament was prorogued by the Earl of Mansfield, as Speaker of the Lords, and the day following it was dissolved.

Thus then were the generous-hearted, the truly loyal People of England, furnished with an important opportunity of demonstrating, to the living world and to posterity, their true character; and of shewing how correctly they can act, when left to the fair unbiassed dictates of their own good sense. They failed not to make proper use of the occasion, and it will ever stand as one of the brightest pages in the history of this country; for the People fully manifested their love and reverence for the mixed nature of the Constitution under which we live, and their knowledge of the blessings it confers. On many former occasions, they had eagerly sought for an increase of their liberties, and if their eagerness sometimes amounted to violence, the fault was always to be found in their leaders; but at this time, when the privileges, and even the independence, of the Crown, appeared to be in danger, a general

alarm spread rapidly through the country, and the great body of the People came forth with open arms, and glowing hearts, to encourage, support, and assist their insulted Sovereign.

The elections were carried on every where with great animation; and the united efforts of the People seemed, in most cases, to bear down before them the customary effects of aristocratical interference.

This was particularly demonstrated in the great and populous county of York, where the influence of the Marquis of Rockingham had been used to dictate and rule, with almost sovereign sway, for a long period. The great assembly of the freeholders was convened to take place in the extensive area of the Castle-Yard at York, for considering of proper persons to represent the County in Parliament, under such circumstances; and the multitude that attended was greatly beyond any thing that had ever been witnessed before. The West Riding, the most populace of the three divisions of the county, poured forth such numbers of freeholders, that the roads to York might literally be said to be covered by them; and all proclaiming, as they went on their way, "*The King, and the Constitution.*" The Rockingham party brought forwards two candidates, as they had been used to do, and yet the friends of the People, and of an independent Sovereign, proposed but one; and the usual ceremony of nomination was proceeded upon, before an unprecedented assemblage of almost all that was respectable and opulent in that great county. On this occasion, Mr. Wilberforce, who had been previously Member for Hull, and was sure of his re-election for that borough, addressed the meeting, for the purpose of enforcing their loyalty to the King. He most elegantly described His Majesty's private virtues, his wisdom, his justice, his goodness, as a Sovereign; and he further descanted on

the influence that the Queen's exemplary conduct had had in introducing the then improved state of female society in England: but he concluded with an exhortation to uphold the independence of the King against an overbearing faction; describing at the same time, with incomparable eloquence, the fitness of the Minister His Majesty had chosen, to support the true principles of the Constitution. In this part of his harangue, he was interrupted by the most tumultuary plaudits; but he concluded with saying, "Your hearts join in this description of Mr. Pitt's extraordinary powers and acquirements, and it is just that they should: yet if you could know him as I have known him, his school-companion, his fellow-student, his associate, his friend, then you would be able to speak of his private virtues as I might speak of them; and then your applauses would be, if possible, ten times greater than they are now." *(r)*

This honest address from a very young man, and delivered so much as if it came unaffected from the heart, determined the great body of the freeholders to have Mr. Wilberforce as one of the County Members; and they triumphantly brought in both their candidates, to the discomfiture of that influence which had long been accustomed to overawe the elections at York.

Mr. Fox was ultimately returned for the city of Westminster, after a very hard struggle, in which the Peers, and other Members of the Coalition party, made unusual efforts for his success.—These, however, would not in all probability have insured it, but that female beauty and persuasion were brought forwards to aid the doubtful cause; for ladies, of the highest rank, were induced to go round amongst the very lowest of the people, to ask for votes on Mr. Fox's account; and on these occasions, they submitted their persons to freedoms

from the electors, which not even the ardour of electioneering contest could justify.

A circumstance of a very extraordinary nature occurred just before the dissolution of Parliament, which I feel bound to state. Some persons, having got from the fields over the garden wall of the Lord Chancellor's house, in Great Ormond-Street, found means to enter the area, where they forced two bars of the kitchen window, and, proceeding through it up stairs, made their way into a room adjoining his Lordship's study. Here they broke open several drawers; and at length, coming to that in which the Great Seal of England was deposited, they took it out of a bag, in which it was kept, and carried it off, with two silver-hilted swords, and thirty-four guineas in money.

An opinion very generally prevailed at the time, that this was a political robbery, (however disguised by necessary circumstances,) for the purpose of preventing the dissolution of Parliament; and it is probable the truth or the error of this opinion will never be fully established. That this idea pervaded the minds of even the very lowest sort of persons, will appear from a circumstance which I introduce, to shew Mr. Fox's promptitude at repartee. When this statesman was canvassing in Westminster for votes, he applied to a very coarse and ignorant man, who, though he did not, as it appears, understand what the Great Seal meant, was possessed with the general idea of its being a political theft; and who therefore thought it a fine opportunity to exercise his would-be wit on a great man. "Sir," said the boor, "when you stole the King's Seal, why did'nt you steal his Watch too?" Mr. Fox, with the good humour, and with the ready wit which characterized him on all occasions, answered immediately, "My good friend, if there had been a watch to it, nobody could have stolen the Seal." Nothing

can exceed the brilliant point of this retort, though it was probably thrown away on the person to whom it was addressed.

When the new Parliament assembled, and after the choice of a Speaker by the Commons, His Majesty addressed the two Houses, from the Throne, in a truly paternal speech, of which the first passage only is necessary for the great objects of this Work.

"My Lords, and Gentlemen,

"I have the greatest satisfaction in meeting you in Parliament at this time, after recurring, in so important a moment, to the sense of my People. I have a just and confident reliance, that you are actuated by the same sentiments of loyalty, and the same attachment to our excellent Constitution, which I have had the happiness to see so fully manifested in every part of the Kingdom. The happy effects of such a disposition will, I doubt not, appear in the wisdom and temper of your deliberations; and in the despatch of the important objects of public business which demand your attention. It will afford me peculiar pleasure to find that the exercise of the power entrusted to me by the Constitution, has been productive of consequences so beneficial to my Subjects, whose interests and welfare are always nearest my heart."

The first debate which ensued in either House, being on an Address in answer to the Royal Speech, and a paragraph having been introduced into it, which thanked the King for dissolving the late Parliament, the occasion was considered as one on which the Government and its opposers were to try the strength of their respective and comparative numbers. In the Lords the Address was carried unanimously; and in the Commons, by a majority of one hundred and sixty-eight Members. Thus did the People of England exhibit to the world their devoted love for an upright, constitutional Sovereign; and this display of national loyalty and good sense so penetrated the King's heart, that I feel

justified in stating, that he was, at that time, one of the happiest Monarchs that ever existed.

I trust I have not treated this part of my subject as a political detail; because it is my most earnest desire, in this work, to avoid every thing like an interference in political matters, thereby imitating the wise conduct of the excellent and illustrious Lady, whose character is my chief object; but as my next wish is to illustrate the great and unvarying principles which directed His Majesty's conduct upon every occasion, and which my opportunities of private information have enabled me correctly to ascertain, I could not pass over more slightly the awful events in which those principles were still further unfolded, with such unequivocal and unparalleled lustre.—From this cordial union between the King and the People flowed innumerable blessings to the Nation. Commerce revived, and industry was excited every where throughout the land; agriculture flourished beyond all former example; manufactures extended themselves with improved qualities and multiplied inventions; and from one end of Britain to the other, scarcely any thing was to be found but that sort of cheerfulness and rejoicing which arises from general and acknowledged prosperity.

It is now time to return to the Court, which exhibited the beginning of a very important change in Dress, that was countenanced, and highly encouraged, by the Queen. It consisted in the rejection, or increased flexibility, of those long, stiff, whalebone cases, in which females had been accustomed hitherto to brace up their tender and delicate forms, to the destruction of their comforts, and to the detriment of their health. It is remarkable, that the first public interference in this pernicious custom originated with the Emperor of Germany, who, about two years before this period, issued an edict, prohibiting, in his Hereditary Dominions, the use of

stiff stays, in all establishments and seminaries for female children; at the same time pointing out to his People the very injurious consequences resulting from so improper an appendage to female habiliments. The Duchess of Devonshire was, I believe, the first Lady in England who exhibited, and who endeavoured to enforce, this important improvement; which the graces of her person enabled her to do most effectually; and it soon became general. The lovely, the fascinating powers of British beauty were thus augmented. To the sentimental, modest intelligence of countenance, to the splendours of dazzling complexion, which charmed before, were now superadded those elegancies of movement and attitude which arise from unrestrained ease. But the improvements of dress, at this period, were not confined to liberating the body: the head, also, had its improvements; for the hair, in both sexes, began to be displayed in something like natural curls, without the assistance of pins and irons: and to see the Prince of Wales, when dressed, was to witness a display of taste in the disposition of the hair, that had not been known before in this or any other country. I should not mention these circumstances, which to some may appear trivial, but as they are the external signs of that refinement in manners to which the English were now rapidly advancing; for increase of wealth brought with it improvement of mind amongst us, which is not the case with every commercial country. We have seen, that while our opposite neighbours, the Dutch, became rich beyond example by their activity in commerce, the coarse vulgarity of their original manners and habits experienced little abatement.

To illustrate this beginning of improvement in public taste, which would never become general without the assistance of Royal sanction, and which may, therefore, be properly considered as emanating from the King and Queen, I give a description of

the Dresses worn by some of the most distinguished persons of each sex, on the commemoration of Her Majesty's Birth-day at this time. There is something like an illustration of individual character and feeling in these particulars, that becomes interesting.

The Drawing-Room at St. James's Palace was unusually crowded; because the same feelings which had actuated the People on the recent occurrences, induced such Nobles and Gentlemen, as well as their families, who sympathized with the popular mind, to come forwards at the first opportunities that offered, and express their loyal attachment to the King and Queen; for they were fully sensible of the influence which superior station gives in directing those of inferior or less distinguished rank, in exciting or encouraging particular sentiments and dispositions.

In undertaking the partial description which I am about to give of this splendid Assembly; I must state a custom, which still prevails to a certain degree, of calling particular colours in dress, or particular forms and materials, after the names and occasions which had lately become objects of public attention.

The Queen on this occasion was dressed very plain in green satin trimmed with sable; for it was Her Majesty's custom always to dress plain on her own Birth-day; but the King was splendidly dressed in a suit of marone velvet embroidered with gold.

The Prince of Wales wore an air-balloon satin, embroidered down the seams with silver. The instant he made his appearance, the seat of Majesty seemed to lose the greater part of its attractions, and the eyes of all the company were turned towards him. His usual vivacity attended him, which he particularly displayed in conversing with the many elegant females then present.

His Royal Highness went to St. James's in a new

carriage of great beauty. The outside was a very high gold-colour, with festoons in party-coloured gold: each corner formed a fluted pillar. The roof was ornamented with a very beautiful crown, and eight plumes in curious carved work. His liveries were, as usual, splendid in the extreme. Indeed, it may be said with truth, that his liveries were superior, in point of magnificence, to any that had been seen within the memory of man in this kingdom.

For the Princess Royal, the eyes of the male circle were not more captivated by the beauties of her face and person, than they were by the elegance of her dress. Her Royal Highness's train was a white satin, figured with blue and gold. The petticoat was entirely covered with a rich embroidered crape, and the ornaments, which were chiefly of gold and foil, were adjusted with uncommon taste, into wreaths, festoons, and other elegant devices. Her Royal Highness's bouquet of natural flowers had a pretty effect, and completed, as it were, a model of artless perfection.

The Princess Augusta, from an unfavourable indisposition, could not be present at the Drawing-Room, as was expected; which was much lamented, as Her Highness's beauty and affability had long secured her the affections of all beholders.

The Duchess of Rutland was loveliness itself, on this occasion; though it may be said, without flattery, that her Grace, at no time, stood in need of the

——————"Foreign aid of ornament."

Her dress was magnificent. The body was black velvet, with a pink satin train and petticoat; the petticoat was covered with a silver embroidered crape, representing grape vines and bunches of grapes. Across the coat was a wreath of gold, and at the bottom a fine execution of black velvet and gold, *en Marlbroug*, which supported a most costly

was most refreshing, and was particularly observable in the circle near Their Majesties.

The beautiful bouquet, worn by the Princess Royal, was a present of the Princess Elizabeth's, which Her Royal Highness gave, in emulation of her sister the Princess Royal, who had the same morning paid a similar compliment of attention to Her Majesty.

It is my duty to observe, before I quit the subject of Dress at this period, that in complying, to a considerable degree, with the many variations of dress, which fashion or taste effected in the course of so many years, Her Majesty, though of a form and complexion most lovely and delicate, never allowed more of her person to be seen than was consistent with the most scrupulous modesty. I wish, most earnestly, that I could persuade all my fair country-women to follow, in this point also, the example of their incomparable Queen. They should do this from policy at least, if not from delicacy; for there are very few instances in which the beauty that is seen will equal that which may be imagined; and it certainly cannot escape the judgment of those who think seriously, that the loveliness which can be seen and examined by every eye, loses all its value to him who should be destined hereafter to become its privileged possessor. This subject is seriously important to the young who are unmarried, and still more so to the domestic comforts of those who have entered into the most solemn and sacred of all human engagements: I cannot but hope, that even *my* recommendation on this point may have some beneficial effect.

On the King's Birth-day following the memorable and almost unanimous manifestation of popular feeling and sentiment which I have recently described; the Queen, who appeared so plain on the celebration of her own natal-day, was exceed-

ingly cheerful: and she had the satisfaction, at this time, of being attended by three of her grown-up Daughters, looking lovely amongst the loveliest. Her Majesty's dress was of a green and white silk, richly trimmed with embroidered crape and silver, and ornamented with a great profusion of diamonds and other jewels, in many tasteful and elegant devices, which presented almost a blaze of dazzling light. The Prince of Wales was dressed in a pearl-coloured silk, embroidered with silver, pearls, and foils.

The Princesses were dressed with uncommon richness and taste; and the sweetly-smiling countenance of the Princess Elizabeth excited the most tender admiration. The Court was crowded, as well as brilliant; and the Ode performed on the occasion seemed to give general satisfaction, as expressing the unanimous sentiment of all classes.

Hail to the day! whose beams again
Returning, claim the choral strain,
And bid us breathe our annual vows
To the first Power that Britain knows;
The Pow'r which, tho' itself restrain'd,
And subject to that just control
Which many an arduous conflict gain'd,
Connects, unites, and animates the whole.

Yon radiant Sun, whose central force
Winds back each planet's vagrant course,
And thro' the systems holds imperial sway;
Bound by the same inherent laws,
E'en whilst it seems the active cause,
Promotes the gen'ral good, as much confin'd as they.

That wond'rous plan thro' ages sought,
Which elder Egypt never taught;
Nor Greece with all her letter'd lore,
Nor struggling Rome could ne'er explore,
Tho' many a form of rule she try'd;
That wondrous plan has Britain found,
Which curbs licentiousness and pride,
Yet leaves true Liberty without a wound.

The fierce Plantagenets beheld
Its growing strength, and deign'd to yield;
Th' imperious Tudors frown'd, and felt agriev'd:
Th' unhappy race, whose faults we mourn,
Delay'd awhile its wish'd return,
Till Brunswick perfected what Nassau had achiev'd.

From that bright era of renown,
Astrea walks the world again;
Her fabled form the nations own,
With all th' attendant blessings in her train.

Hark! with what gen'ral loud acclaim
They venerate the British name,
Where forms of rule are in the balance weigh'd;
And pour their torrents of applause
On the fair Isle, whose equal laws
Control the sceptre, and protect the spade.
The triple chain, which binds them fast,
Like Homer's golden chain, descends from Jove:
Long may the sacred union last,
And the mix'd pow'rs in mutual concert move,
Each temp'ring each, and list'ning to the call
Of genuine Public Good, bless'd source and end of all.

The Ball in the evening was very numerously attended, by those who had visited the Drawing Room of the morning. The King and Queen entered the Ball-Room at half after nine o'clock, and having spoken to every one in the circle, and afterwards seated themselves, the dancing was opened by the Prince of Wales (who, as I have intimated before, was the finest dancer in the world,) and the Princess Royal. But it is very important to remark, that the dancing *then* was very different from what it is at the present period; and I must be allowed to make a few observations upon the subject. If ever this bodily exercise, in public, could be defended by reasonable argument, it must be in that species of it which was countenanced by Their Majesties, and which has been long laid aside, because none of our young men of fashion would

submit to the trouble and practice which is necessary for acquiring it. The slow movements of a Minuet Dance tend greatly to unfold the figure into graceful attitudes; and, being performed by a gentleman and a lady, cannot fail to excite much interest in the spectator. It is true, that there is a call for displaying the person, which, unless under the correcting eye of Majesty, might be looked upon as having a very doubtful tendency; but the whole of the dance represents the gentleman advancing towards his partner with respect, touching her hand with reverence, and retiring from her with obsequious regret.

At the close of the Minuets, the King and Queen generally retired: and then began the Country Dances, which prevail now; and which were called so, because they are fit to be performed by country people only, and that in rural situations. Dancing in private circles, amongst very young persons, and if possible in the open air, is good, and may be recommended; but if we look to the nature and probable tendency of Country Dances in public assemblies, we must agree with the sentiments so well given in several papers of the Spectator, and allow that the probable influence of such dancing is immoral and dangerous. Conceive the situation of a young and delicate female introduced to a public ball: she gives up the use of her hand to a man whom, perhaps, she never saw before, to be led, turned, twisted, and hurried through a number of persons, equally strangers, who have almost equal privilege to take the same freedoms as her conductor. At length, when her spirits are exhilarated by the exercise, and every one seems in a state of felicitous animation, she has, probably, to stand still, liable to the conversation and insinuations of a man, of whose character and principles she knows nothing at all. In many instances, the consequence of such an intercourse has been injurious, nay, even fatal;

and I never heard of a single case in which it could be shewn, that the result was beneficial. It is most highly to be praised in Their Majesties, that they *allowed* this kind of dancing, rather than *encouraged* it.

But the speaking of dancing, leads me to a circumstance which took place very soon after this period, in which the Queen had an opportunity of shewing the assiduous attention she always paid to whatever was likely to please her Royal Consort.

The Earl of Morton was almost the only Nobleman admitted to participate with the King in his infantine and boyish recreations and amusements; and the natural consequence followed, from the excellent qualities of each—a sincere friendship was formed between them. The Earl, in his maturity, married a lady of high birth, talents, and acquirements, for which she was more valued even than for her extraordinary beauty. The Earl, after some years of happiness, was obliged to go to the south of Italy, for the purpose of restoring his declining health; and the experiment proving unsuccessful, he died at Taormina, in Sicily, leaving a beautiful widow with two sons. This exemplary Lady determined to make the most of the melancholy occasion, for the benefit of her sons; and travelled with them to visit most of the Courts in Europe, as well as to see every thing else that was deemed useful or instructive. The young Earl, in consequence of these advantages, returned to England a most finished gentleman; possessing all the accomplishments, in a high degree, that were thought valuable in other countries, and speaking, with fluency, almost all languages. He was introduced immediately at Court, and was as soon distinguished in the Ball Room for being the most elegant dancer there, except the Prince of Wales. But a more intimate acquaintance soon shewed, that dancing was one of the least of his endowments; and the King readily

transferred to him the affectionate regard he had entertained for his father. The Queen, too, saw clearly what an advantage it would be to have such a Nobleman attached to her service, as well as that it presented an opportunity of gratifying His Majesty: in consequence, the Queen took an occasion, which soon presented itself, of appointing the young and elegant Earl of Morton to be her Lord Chamberlain; in which office he has continued ever since, acquitting himself so, in its arduous and difficult duties, as to confirm, and even to increase, Her Majesty's esteem for him; and being, at the same time, the ready medium of promoting the access of foreigners to the Royal Presence, by his entire command of their respective languages.

A melancholy event occurred at this time, which put the whole of the Royal Family in mourning, by the premature death of Prince Leopold of Brunswick, brother to the Duke who married His Majesty's eldest Sister. The heroic warrior who risks his life fearlessly amidst the horrors of battle, claims and receives invariably our homage and our praise. Surely then, where a man of high station risks his life in the cause of humanity with the boldness of a hero, and loses it by the generous effort, we ought to consecrate his name with our praises, we ought to embalm his memory with our tears.

Calamity and distress were suddenly spread over a large tract of Germany, by an inundation of the river Oder, which burst its banks in several places at once, carrying away, with the irresistible current, houses, bridges, and every thing that opposed its impetuous course. Numbers of people, taken by surprise, and without the means of instant help, lost their lives with their properties; but there was no circumstance, on this melancholy occasion, which excited such general sorrow as the death of the good Prince Leopold of Brunswick. While this

amiable man was standing by the side of the river, a woman threw herself at his feet, beseeching him to give orders for some persons to go to the rescue of her children, whom, in the agony of the moment, she had left behind her in a house, where others also were crying out for assistance. The house was surrounded with water, and the inundation was still rising and extending itself, so that the situation of these distressed people became every moment more perilous. The Duke endeavoured to procure a flat-bottomed boat, and succeeded; but no one could be prevailed upon to venture on the enterprise, though His Highness promised large rewards, and offered to share the danger. At last, moved by the cries of the unfortunate inhabitants, and led by the feelings of his own benevolent heart, he took the resolution of going to their relief himself. Those who were near endeavoured to dissuade him from an attempt so big with danger; but his mind was wrought up to the important occasion, and he answered in a way that truly describes his great character; "What am I, more than either you or they? I am a man like yourselves, and nothing ought to be attended to now but the calls of humanity." Unshaken, therefore, in his purpose, he jumped into the small boat, being followed by three watermen, whom his magnanimity had roused to a proper feeling, and proceeded across the river by means of great personal exertion. The boat was already within a few yards of its destined object, when it struck against a tree, and altogether disappeared in an instant, leaving the distant spectators in the anguish of suspense or despair. A few minutes afterwards the Duke rose again, and supported himself for some time by the branches of a tree, the top of which was above the waters; but the violence of the current at last bore him down, and he appeared no more. The boatmen were saved with much difficulty, and the Duke alone fell a

victim to his generous humanity. The whole city of Frankfort was in deep affliction on this occasion, and long deeply lamented the loss of so amiable a Prince, whose humility, gentleness of manners, and compassionate disposition, endeared him to all ranks of people.

But whatever might be the state of their private feelings, the King and Queen never lost an opportunity of kindness and favour to those who looked up to them for countenance; an instance of which occurred at this time. The Earl and Countess of Salisbury had been married sixteen years, without any increase of their family; and being at length blessed with a daughter, Their Majesties thought it a proper occasion for shewing the regard and esteem they had for the parents. They therefore consented to become sponsors for the infant, with the addition of the Princess Royal; and the ceremony of Baptism was performed accordingly at his Lordship's house, in Arlington-street. The child was put into the Queen's arms by Lady Essex, and the Archbishop received it from Her Majesty, who gave it the names Georgina Charlotte Augusta; and a most magnificent entertainment followed. The King and Queen subsequently extended this gracious condescension to other noble families; but with a truly religious consciousness of the solemn engagement they entered into on the occasions, a consciousness not always to be found in those who undertake such offices: they watched, with the care and solicitude of parents, incessantly over the welfare of those for whom they had become responsible. The King's gift, on these occasions, was always a magnificent piece of plate, to the weight of a hundred and twenty ounces; and Her Majesty's presents were generally made in lace, or some rich and valuable kind of drapery.

An event took place at this period, (1786,) which alarmed all but the person most particularly con-

cerned in it; and which went nigh to deprive the nation of its brightest ornament—it was an attempt to assassinate the King. His Majesty arrived at St. James's Palace in the morning of the second of August, and had just got out of his carriage at the garden gate, opposite Marlborough House wall, and was going to hold a Levee; when a woman, with a black silk cloak on, and otherwise decently dressed, made an appearance of presenting a written petition; and His Majesty, with the usual courtesy which he always shewed to all petitioners, stopped to receive it: but the paper inclosed a knife, with which she made a thrust at the belly of the King, between his coat and waistcoat. With a presence of mind that never forsook him, the King promptly drew back, and said, "What does the woman mean?"

One of the Yeomen of the Guard, observing something extraordinary, seized the woman by the arm, and immediately the knife dropped from her hand; which the Yeoman taking up, shewed, and proclaimed the King's danger. The kind-hearted and considerate Monarch, knowing well how it might fare with the woman if she were left to the prompt effects of public indignation, said immediately, "I am not hurt—take care of the woman—she is mad—*do not hurt her.*" His Majesty had been once before attacked, in nearly the same way, and by a female; so that when he had reached his apartment in the Palace, his firmness gave way to a tender kind of emotion, and he could not help exclaiming, in a tone of gentle complaint, "I have not deserved this treatment from my subjects."

The knife that had been used for the horrid purpose was old and much worn, so that it bent from the resistance of the waistcoat; otherwise the force with which it was applied, would, in all probability, have made it a mortal blow. The paper, which concealed this instrument of intended mischief, had, written upon the inside, the usual commencement of

petitions, "To the King's most excellent Majesty," and nothing more. The woman was immediately taken into custody, and carried to the Inner Guard-Chamber; where, upon being questioned by several persons, how she could make so daring and wicked an attempt? she answered, that they had no right to examine her: when she was brought before the proper persons, she would give her reasons. She was then taken into the Queen's Anti-Chamber, where she remained till near five o'clock, and, though spoken to by many Noblemen and Gentlemen, preserved a sullen silence; declining all answers, and seeming entirely unmoved by the lively representations that were made to her, of the atrocity of her attempt on so sacred a Person.

She was next taken to the Board of Green Cloth, for examination before the Law Officers of the Crown, and several Members of the Privy Council. In answer to the various questions put to her, she talked of the Crown being her right, and that she had required it by her petition; which extravagance some of the Council thought proof of insanity: but when pressed further, she shewed that at least there was method in her madness; for she stated that she had presented a petition ten days before, which, on inquiry, was found to be true; and when asked to write down the contents of that petition, she did so with a variation of four words only, and those not affecting the sense. In her lodging were found three letters about her pretended right to the Crown, addressed to Lord Loughborough, Lord Mansfield, and General Bramham. The landlord, upon being examined, said she had been in his house three years, getting her living by plain needle-work, and had shewn no signs of insanity; and another, with whom she had lived for the five years before, made the same statement as to her conduct. However, it was decided, after several examinations, that she was not of sound mind; and she was ulti-

mately conveyed to Bedlam, where she was treated with great kindness. This mode of proceeding was adopted in compliance with the King's wishes; who, however he might find it necessary to enforce the rigours of the law, when the persons and properties of others were concerned, felt that he had an unquestionable right to shew mercy where himself only was the offended party. The Yeoman of the Guard, and the Footman, who secured the woman, were rewarded with presents by the Lord Chamberlain, in the King's name, of a hundred pounds to the first, and of fifty to the latter.

It is worthy of remark, that most of the miscreants who either murdered, or attempted to assassinate their Monarchs, were supposed to be insane. For illustration of that, I would recall to the reader's mind, Clement, who stabbed Henry III. of France; Ravaillac, who poniarded the amiable Henry IV.; and Francis Damien, who attempted the life of Louis XV. It is also an extraordinary coincidence, that all these diabolical attempts were made when the Kings were either in, or coming out of their carriages, and surrounded by their Guards.

Upon the occasion of this attack on the King's life, the Marquis del Campo, Spanish Ambassador, displayed a delicacy of sentiment and feeling that deserves to be commemorated. The moment he heard of the affair, he went post to Windsor, and immediately introduced himself to the Queen—not as a man of common mind would have done, in order to assure Her Majesty that the King had received no injury from the knife of the assassin, but solely for the purpose of engaging her in conversation, and thus to prevent the possibility of her hearing any report of the circumstance, till the King's arrival. In this design he happily succeeded; and then went away, leaving His Majesty to relate the story himself. The King, whose nicely discriminating judgment enabled him to see in a moment the

kind service that had been so delicately performed, shook the Marquis very graciously by the hand, assuring him, that he did not know another man in the world to whom he was so much obliged.

The Queen, also, felt the nature and amount of the obligation, after she had been informed of the danger her Royal Consort had been in, and determined to give some proof of her gratitude. She ordered Mr. Cosway, the most able miniature painter the world has ever produced, to execute a miniature of her in his best style, for the occasion; and, after it had been most beautifully and richly set round with very large diamonds, she presented it herself to the Marquis del Campo.

Soon after this event, the Royal Family were again called to put on the habiliments of mourning, for a nearer and dearer relation than the amiable Prince whose untimely death they had so recently and sincerely lamented: for on the last day of October, (1786,) died at her house in Cavendish-Square, the Princess Amelia Sophia Eleonora, aunt to the King, and the only remaining child of George the Second and his Queen Caroline. Her Royal Highness was in her seventy-sixth year, had never been married, and had lived for several years in the most private manner; so that even her being in existence might have been almost forgotten, but for the extensive charities and benevolences which she diffused around her wherever she resided.

This Princess had a singular presentiment that she should die in the month of October; probably because the King, her Father, had died in it, as well as her brother the Duke of Cumberland, whose death took place also on the same day of the month as that which put a period to the mortal life of Her Royal Highness. All places of public amusement were ordered to be shut up till after the Funeral; and the whole nation was required to put on decent mourning.

On the Friday but one after her decease, the Princess's Body was conveyed at night, privately, to the Prince's Chamber at Westminster, and placed a little before the canopy; the walls and floor of the apartment having been previously covered with black cloth: on each side of the canopy were placed five lofty stands, with large wax tapers upon them; and other lights were distributed about the Chamber. At the head of the Coffin was a large elbow chair, for the Chief Mourner, with a chair on each side for her Supporters; while five stools were placed on the right and left of the Coffin, for the ten Assistants; and two long seats at the bottom of the room, for the Ladies of the Bedchamber. The Coffin was covered with a black velvet pall, adorned with eight escutcheons, detailing the heraldic history of the Princess's descent; and on the head of the Coffin was placed also a black velvet cushion, supporting the coronet.

On the following evening the Interment took place, privately, as it was called, in King Henry the Seventh's Chapel, in Westminster Abbey. About half-past eight o'clock the Procession began to move, passing through Old Palace Yard, to the south east door of the Abbey, upon a floor railed in, covered with black cloth, with an awning over it, and lined all the way by a detachment of the Foot Guards. This was the Order of proceeding:

Knight-Marshal's Men.
Livery Servant to Her Royal Highness.
Gentlemen Servants to Her Royal Highness.
Pages of the Presence, William Stokes, Edward Powell, Esqrs.
Pages of the Back-Stairs, Edward Smith, Philip Howes, Esqrs.
Page of Honour, Edward Stephens, Esq.
Physician, Dr. Warren.
Chaplain, Dr. Bell.
Equerry.
Secretary, John Turner, Esq.
Bedchamber Women, (veiled.)
Miss Onslow, Miss Howard, Miss Russell.
Pursuivant of Arms.
Heralds of Arms.
Comptroller and Treasurer of Her Royal Highness's Household.

Ladies of the Bedchamber, (veiled.)
Lady Templeton, Lady Ann Howard, Countess of Barrymore.
Norroy, King of Arms,
Lord Chamberlain of His Majesty's Household.

Gentleman Usher, Major Johnson. { Clarencieux, King of Arms, bearing the Coronet on a black velvet cushion. } Gentleman Usher, Sir Wm. Fitzherbert.

The Body,

In a crimson velvet Coffin, carried by Yeomen of the Guard, covered with the black velvet pall emblazoned, and under a canopy supported by eight Gentlemen Ushers and Grooms of the Chamber to Her Majesty.

Supporters of the Pall,
Lady Pelham, Lady Stowell,
Lady Howard, Lady Clifford.

A Gentleman Usher, Maj. Gen. Stephens. { Garter, principal King of Arms, with the Rod of his office. } A Gentleman Usher, Colonel Rolt.

Chief Mourner,

Duchess of Bolton, (veiled) her train borne by Lady Yonge.

Supporters to the Chief Mourner,
Countess Dowager of Suffolk, Duchess of Northumberland,
(both veiled.)

Ladies Assistant to the Chief Mourner,

Countess of Essex,	Countess of Salisbury,
Countess of Waldegrave,	Countess of Stanhope,
Countess of Lonsdale,	Countess of Harcourt,
Viscountess Howe,	Viscountess Hampden.

A Gentleman Usher, Francis Wadman, Esq.

The several Peers and Peeresses who attended, and took part in the Procession, were marshalled according to their respective degrees of rank and precedence.

At the entrance of Westminster Abbey, within the Church, the Dean and Prebendaries, attended by the Choir, received the Body, falling into the Procession before Norroy, King of Arms; and so proceeded into Henry the Seventh's Chapel, where the Body was deposited on tressels, the coronet and cushion being laid on the coffin, and the Chief Mourner, and her two Supporters, sitting at the head of the corpse; the Ladies Assistants, and the supporters of the pall, on either side. The Funeral Service was then read, the Body lowered into the vault, and finally the usual proclamation made; after which the Procession returned.

There are some men, of vitiated minds, who go so far almost as to insinuate, that Royal Personages have none of the virtues, or the feelings, that warm the hearts and direct the judgments of persons in more humble stations. For the instruction of such, and for the gratification of those who know better, I will give some extracts from the Will of this illustrious Princess, in order to shew the nature of some of her bequeathments.

The town and country houses were ordered to be sold, and one half the produce to be paid to Prince Charles of Hesse Cassel, and the other half to the young Princes of Hesse Cassel, her nephews, after paying out legacies, of four thousand pounds each, to the Ladies Elizabeth and Caroline Waldegrave. A further sum of twenty thousand pounds each, from the funded property, was left to the two last-mentioned Princes.

The ladies and gentlemen of the establishment, as well as all the servants, even down to the dairy-maid and helpers in the stables, had all some token of the Princess's kind remembrance, generally proportioned to the length of their service. To the Ladies of the Bedchamber, who had been, respectively, twenty-one years, four years, and one year, with her Royal Highness, was bequeathed five thousand pounds, four thousand pounds, and two thousand pounds; to the three Bedchamber-women, one hundred, two hundred, and three hundred pounds a year for life, respectively; to the Steward, five hundred pounds, and a hundred and fifty pounds a year for six years; to the footmen, fifty pounds each; to the house-maids, a hundred pounds each; to a man whose arm had been shot off by firing a cannon, twenty pounds; to the widow of a labouring man who fell from the house and was killed, twenty pounds; to an old housekeeper, forty pounds yearly, and three hundred and eighty pounds. The whole property left by the Princess

appears to have been little short of a hundred and fifty thousand pounds; and the number of persons benefited by it nearly sixty: but the one who stood first in the grants, seemed the least thankful of all; for the Will having omitted to provide mourning for the servants, Lord Besborough ordered it, as a thing that was indispensable, and was obliged to say that he would have no objection to pay the expense himself, before the Prince of Hesse Cassel could be brought to give this small proof of respect for his deceased relation.

I come now to the statement of a proceeding which brought a foul and indelible stain on the bright pages of British History; proceedings which threw a dark cloud over the pure administration of justice in this land of law and equity; and which is the more to be regretted, because the popular and truly beautiful part of our national system was made, by bad men, the instrument of private revenge, and of inflicting an irreparable wound on an innocent and highly meritorious individual.

In the year 1785, Mr. Warren Hastings had resigned the supreme government of British India, and had returned to England, after having devoted the whole powers of his mind, during two-and-thirty years, to advance the interests and the character of the Company and the Country for which he acted. I have spoken already of this gentleman; but it is necessary now, that I should add to my former observations. Mr. Hastings' mental powers were of the most gigantic description, capable of effecting every thing he undertook, and his patience and perseverance were fully commensurate with his powers; yet was his mind embellished with every lesser acquirement that can make a man desirable in society: with the histories of Governments and of Nations he was perfectly familiar; and, at the same time, he was master of the minute details that belong to the antiquary: he was a master of elo-

quence, a most powerful writer, a good poet; and, in classical literature, possessed a taste most exquisitely refined, by a close study of the best Greek and Roman authors. Mr. Hastings had not been long in India before he was distinguished as the best linguist amongst the European residents. He could speak and write, correctly and elegantly, the Persian and Hindoostanee languages, and was master of several others, of which those are the roots, and which are spoken in the different provinces of that vast peninsula; and on this account, he was generally employed as Envoy, or as Ambassador, to the different native Princes, when any business of importance was to be discussed or transacted. In all these cases he was so successful, as to bring them to an issue satisfactory to both parties: he repeatedly received votes of thanks from the Company; he had large presents offered him by the natives, according to their custom, which he in every instance declined; and he acquired the esteem and reverence of all the Indian Princes and Sovereigns. At the end of sixteen years, Mr. Hastings quitted India, disgusted with the uncontrolled and uncontrollable rapacity of the greater part of the Company's servants, and arrived with a determination to spend the remainder of his life in England. On this occasion he brought over with him so small a property, as the result of his long services, that he endeavoured to procure the establishment, at Oxford, of a Professorship for the Oriental languages, meaning to become the first professor himself, for the purpose of increasing his income to the amount of a gentlemanly subsistence. But the talents of this great man were of too high a class to be buried in the obscure, though useful employment, of teaching languages; he was destined to form, establish, and govern a great Empire, with honour to himself and glory to the English name.

The East India Company, embarrassed by almost inextricable difficulties, from the complicated effect of extensive commerce, immense territories, and disobedient servants, saw no way to avert the ruin that seemed awfully impending over them, but by again sending out Mr. Warren Hastings; which took place in 1769. After his arrival in India, he filled several high stations, till he was appointed, in 1772, Governor-General, by the recommendation of Lord North, the then Prime Minister of England; in which station Mr. Hastings remained till his final departure for his native country: on which occasion he left the people, both natives and Europeans, full of love and admiration of his talents and his virtues, and of deep regret for the loss of one who was endeared to them all. This fact was most completely proved and exemplified, by the numerous addresses that were sent in to the Governor-General, from all classes of persons, as soon as his intended departure was known.

The arrival of this eminent man in Europe, in his native land, was regarded by Mr. Burke with that sort of exultation which a hawk feels in seeing an unsuspecting dove coming within reach of his fatal attack. From the high aerial regions of his imagination, he had long contemplated Mr. Hastings as his destined prey, and he lost no time in beginning his evolutions. He began by pouring copiously out his high streams of declamatory eloquence in the House of Commons, to excite their humanity and their justice; and, after many days of preparatory exertion, brought forwards Resolutions, charging Mr. Hastings with High Crimes and Misdemeanors, which, after being debated in two successive Sessions of Parliament, were finally embodied, by Mr. Burke and his coadjutors, into twenty capital Charges; and upon these it was agreed to impeach the late Governor-General of Bengal, before the august assembly of the Peers of Great Britain. This

is the most solemn act of crimination, and the most awful resort for judgment, with which this country is acquainted. Mr. Pitt examined all the charges with a degree of luminous perspicuity, and of powerful argument, that astonished and dazzled every one; concluding with expressing his opinion, that there was one point in one of the charges which he thought required investigation, and therefore he voted for the impeachment. In thus taking, or seeming to take part with, the accusers of Mr. Hastings, Mr. Pitt acted the part of a skilful politician, for as he had so very recently taken out of the hands of his opponents the management and regulation of Indian affairs, he would have given them great advantage over him, if he had seemed to take part with one, charged with delinquencies in that country.

The Articles of Impeachment, when fully arranged, described a series of enormities from which the human mind shrinks with horror. Mr. Hastings was charged in them with acting in violation of his instructions; with breach of solemn treaties; with receiving enormous presents, as rewards for treachery to his employers; with applying very large sums of public money to his private uses; with deposing independent sovereigns; and with laying waste extensive and flourishing districts. One of the voluble orators on these charges, went so far, in the exuberance of his feelings and his rhetoric, as to declare, that Warren Hastings never made a journey from his capital but to depopulate a province or to dethrone a prince.

Mr. Burke was selected, not only on account of his eloquence, but also for the vindictive spirit by which he seemed to be actuated, as Chief Manager on the part of the Commons, for conducting this Impeachment: but, in order to the forming a correct judgment on the occasion, it is necessary, here, to look at the conduct of this gentleman through a

medium, which, as it is not generally known, is the more important to the cause of truth and justice.

It was not till after the unnatural and sanguinary contest between this country and her American colonists, that the commerce of Britain gave indications of advancement, towards that state of overflowing and unrivalled prosperity, at which it has since arrived; and, consequently, there were very few opportunities, at home, of acquiring those rapid and immense fortunes, which some men consider as the height of human happiness. But the wealth which many had recently brought over from India, made the ambitious and the needy look upon that country as a second Peru: men of all classes, who fancied they had any means of obtaining patronage for them, were anxious to get their sons sent out to the East, in some situation or other under the India Company, flattering themselves that wealth must follow as an inevitable consequence. Mr. Burke, who was a political adventurer, and felt himself destined to make his way in the world by extraordinary powers of eloquence, had yet a longing to participate in the delicious sweets of Indian treasure, through other channels. He obtained, in consequence, an appointment to India for one of his relations; who carried out with him letters of warm recommendation to many distinguished persons resident in that country, and, amongst the rest, to the Governor-General of Bengal. Mr. Hastings was ever remarkable for the kind reception he gave to all those from the parent country who were introduced and recommended to him; and there is no doubt that Mr. Burke's relation would have had all the customary advantages of such a friend and protector: but the young man's head was almost turned by the splendours of his new situation; he lost his discretion and judgment in the luxuries of the East, and took to gambling, as well as to every other kind of dissipation, in such a degree, that it would have

been highly criminal in any person of authority to countenance him. Mr. Hastings' patronage was, therefore, after many fruitless admonitions, entirely withdrawn; and the young man's prospects being thus blighted by his own folly and superlative indiscretion, he returned to England as poor as he left it.

The violence of Mr. Burke's attacks, which before had been directed against all the servants of the East India Company, and even against the Company itself, was now all concentrated upon Mr. Hastings, with the added bitterness of personal resentment; and he determined to cling to him with the deadly perseverance of the sullen mastiff, when he seizes the noble monarch of the herds, holding him fast till he has brought him to the ground.

Mr. Burke, in the name of the Commons of Great Britain, presented, accordingly, the several Articles of Charge at the Bar of the House of Lords; stating that he was impeached upon those charges, and begging that Warren Hastings might be taken into custody, and tried by their Lordships. Mr. Hastings was, in consequence, taken by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, and brought before the House, where, after kneeling at the bar, he was admitted bail, himself in twenty thousand pounds, and two other sureties for him in ten thousand each, that he should appear any and every day when called upon. Thus was this great man, who had been entrusted with the government of millions of people, and who could have traversed more than five hundred leagues of country under his individual sway, confined as a prisoner in the Metropolis of England, to sate the inveterate animosity of a disappointed individual.

Westminster Hall was fitted up for this trial at a great expense; and every circumstance that could add to the grandeur and solemnity of the occasion, was carefully brought forwards. The Peers gave

their attendance cheerfully, and with unwearied attention; and the Managers, on the part of the Commons, continued to pour out their eloquence from day to day, and from year to year, during five years, loading the object of their attacks with the foulest epithets that language could supply. Mr. Hastings was at length put to make his Defence; which he did with incomparable ability and success, satisfactorily explaining, or entirely refuting, all that had been advanced against him. In his concluding observations, he could not refrain from some remarks on the hardship of his treatment; for he stated, (as a circumstance to characterize the unparalleled duration to which his trial had been extended,) that some of the witnesses, that were to assist in his defence, had made three voyages to India, and returned, before they were called upon; and that other witnesses had died in that period, whose testimony would have availed him much. He remarked also, that, from the same cause, many of those who sat as his Judges in the beginning of the proceedings, had descended to the grave, and been succeeded by others, who could be acquainted with the subject in but a very limited degree: and he complained, with great feeling and emotion, on the injury his health and his character had suffered, by being kept like a prisoner, and under such heavy charges, for so long a time.

After the Defence had been completed, the Replies of the Managers, and matters of form, lengthened this extraordinary trial for two years longer; and then came the awful day for giving Judgment. The Peers, who had been accustomed to attend the proceedings, took their seats in Westminster Hall, dressed in their robes, with the Lord Chancellor at their head; while the other Peers who, from various reasons, declined voting, appeared in their private dresses round the Throne: the galleries were filled

with the Peeresses, their daughters, and innumerable other Ladies, shining with the splendours of beauty, dress, and decoration; while every other accessible part of the immense Hall was crowded to excess.

It had been agreed before, in their own House, that the Peers should give their judgments individually, and upon each charge separately. The Lord Chancellor, therefore, applied first to the Earl of Morton, junior Peer, sitting as Baron Douglas of Lochleven:

"What say you, my Lord? Is Warren Hastings, Esq. guilty of the crimes imputed to him in these charges?"

Upon this, the Noble Lord put his hand solemnly upon his heart, and answered,

"Not guilty, upon my honour."

I can conceive no situation or circumstance more likely to impress the heart and the conscience, or more suited to obtain the ends and purposes of rigid justice.

The same application was made to every Peer successively, and upon every charge; and the result was thus:—

The Lord Chancellor.—Not guilty on 3, 10, 16. Guilty on the other charges.

Earl of Mansfield.—Guilty on 8. Not guilty on the others.

Duke of Norfolk.—Guilty on 1 and 2. Gave no judgment as to the other charges.

Earl of Suffolk.—Guilty on 1, 2, 4. Gave no judgment as to the other charges.

Earl Fitzwilliam.—Not guilty on 9, 3, 10. Guilty on the rest.

Earl of Radnor.—Guilty on 1, 2, 8, 9, 13, 14. Not guilty on the rest.

Earl of Beverley.—Doubtful on 9. Not guilty on the others.

Earl of Caernarvon.—Not guilty on 3 and 10. Guilty on the other charges.

Viscount Sidney.—Not guilty on 1 and 2. Gave no judgment as to the other charges.

Lord Walsingham.—Guilty on 9. Not guilty on the others.

Lord Boston.—Declined giving judgment on 8, 9, 10. Not guilty on the other charges.

The Archbishop of York.
The Duke of Leeds.
The Duke of Bridgewater.
The Marquis Townshend.
The Earl of Warwick.
The Earl of Coventry.
The Earl of Dorchester.
Viscount Falmouth.
Bishop of Bangor.
Bishop of Rochester.
Lord Middleton.
Lord Sandys.
Lord Hawke.
Lord Thurlow.
Lord Rawdon.
Lord Somers.
Earl of Fife.
Lord Douglas of Lochleven.

} Not guilty of any of the charges.

After these proceedings, and when the Lord Chancellor had cast up the judgments, he declared, That a very large majority of their Lordships present having answered in the negative, Warren Hastings, Esq. was acquitted of the Articles of Impeachment exhibited against him.

During the time of collecting the judgments, a sort of breathless expectation seemed to prevail throughout the vast multitude assembled on the occasion; and, as soon as the verdict was known, an expression of lively joy seemed to brighten every countenance.

Mr. Hastings was then required to kneel before his Judges, which he did; and, having risen, the

Lord Chancellor thus addressed him in the name of the House of Peers:

"WARREN HASTINGS, ESQ.

"I AM to acquaint you, that you are acquitted of the Articles of Impeachment exhibited against you by the House of Commons, for High Crimes and Misdemeanours; and of all things therein: and you are discharged on paying your fees."

It is easy to conceive the gratified feelings of the accused and now liberated individual at this interesting moment: but who will be able to imagine the state of mind of those who had thus been persecuting, and endeavouring, for seven years, to punish an innocent man; and that too not only at an enormous expense to the Nation, but to the entire destruction of the property of him whom they assailed? If it be possible for any one to conceive their agitations and their disappointment, I am persuaded it is impossible that any one could wish to have shared in their situation.

When Mr. Hastings returned to England, after a service of two-and-thirty years in the East, he brought with him a property somewhat exceeding, as I have authority to say, one hundred thousand pounds, which is not more than half what the same talents would have procured him, had he devoted the same time to advocating causes in the Public Courts of his native Country; and he would have had no risks of those dangers which arise from tempestuous seas and burning climates. But the mere law-expenses of proving his innocence, cost him more than seventy-one thousand pounds; and the other payments on the occasion (as any one may suppose, being in the same proportion,) consumed the whole of his property. The East India Company, however, that body whom he had been charged with disobeying, defrauding, and ruining, felt as just men ought to feel on the occasion, and they unanimously voted him five thousand pounds a year for his life.

It was in his seventy-second year that I had the honour (such I must call it) to become intimately acquainted with Mr. Hastings; and he then told me, on his honour, that he had not a shilling with which to support the last years of his life, but the sum which he derived from the bountiful grant of the East India Company.

That the trial of Mr. Hastings is a great national event, no one will deny; but, it may be supposed, that it has nothing to do with this work.—With permission of the reader, I beg leave to be considered as the best judge of what may be conducive to my purposes. The result of this trial involves questions immediately connected with the King and Queen.

Their Majesties were deeply afflicted by the sufferings of Mr. Hastings, and the King was most anxious to soothe or alleviate them; but he had so lately, himself, received such essential benefits from a powerful expression of the popular part of the Constitution, that he felt a great degree of doubt, as to the propriety of shewing a direct disapproval of an improper ebullition of zeal in the same branch. If the King might have been permitted to reimburse Mr. Hastings, he would have rejoiced to do it, because it would have taken off a disgrace from the Nation he delighted to govern; but that would have implied a reproof on another branch of the Legislature. As soon, however, afterwards, as personal feeling might be supposed to have time to subside into sober judgment, His Majesty appointed Mr. Hastings one of his Privy-Council, that the State might thus have the benefit of his extraordinary mental powers and experience.

The Queen, who had no power to confer dignities or honours like her Royal Consort, felt the same sympathy for the persecuted individual; and she, therefore, received Mrs. Hastings very graciously at her Court. But this brought upon the Queen some

censure from the nice observers of her conduct and principles; and I have reason to believe, that a very distinguished Member of the Royal Family said on the occasion, "My Mother has no one thing to blush for in the whole course of her life, but the having received Mrs. Hastings at her Drawing-Room." There were circumstances in the life of this Lady, before she became the wife of the Governor-General of Bengal, which would have prevented her admission into the Queen's society, though she was a most exemplary wife after she became Mrs. Hastings; but she had a countrywoman who was in great confidence, and constantly about Her Majesty's person, who represented her in such a way as best suited the occasion, concealing the circumstances that would have been objected to, and urging the sufferings she had gone through on account of her husband. The Queen, therefore, acted under a delusion, and not by a deviation from principle.

And here let me state, which I believe I am authorised to state, that Her Majesty held it as a principle, (generally of course,) if a Lady married without reproach on her character, she was admissible into the Royal Presence as long as she continued to live under the sanction of her husband; very properly considering, that a man is the best superintendant of the honour, the discretion, and the character of his wife; and that unless *he* object, no one else has a right to take exceptions. Any other than an extended principle like this, would have exposed the Queen to be misled in her judgments by scandal-bearers and tattlers; or have subjected her to the disgusting necessity of having spies and informers, on the one hand; or of laying her circle open, on the other, to all who chose to come. I entreat the reader to keep this principle in mind.

In the beginning of July, 1786, Their Majesties' second son, Prince Frederick Augustus, Bishop of Osnaburgh, (who had been called to the Peerage as

Duke of York, on completing his twenty-first year,) arrived from the continental tour in which he had long been engaged. He had embarked at Calais, with his suite, in a common packet, and reached the Palace at Windsor the evening but one following, dressed in the uniform of his Regiment. The King and Queen, and all the Princesses, were ready to receive him; and he was welcomed with every possible demonstration of joyfulness and tender affection. Intelligence of the Duke's return to England having been early sent off to the Prince of Wales, according to his order, His Royal Highness immediately proceeded from Brighthelmstone to Windsor, to add his affectionate and brotherly congratulations. The meeting of these illustrious Brothers was truly affecting, and diffused increased joy in every breast; the whole world, at that time, could not have produced an instance of more perfect happiness than was exhibited in this numerous, accomplished, and amiable Family. Prince William Henry alone was wanting to complete the joyous circle; but he was at a distance, exercising himself in the duties of his profession, and every where inspiring those who had the honour of his acquaintance, with love and respect for his character and his virtues. At the city of Cork he received a most affectionate Congratulatory Address, from the Mayor, the Corporation, and the Citizens: and afterwards, on his leaving Jamaica, the House of Assembly expressed their regrets at losing the society of so amiable a Prince, presenting, at the same time, for his acceptance, and as a mark of their high esteem, a star set with diamonds, of a thousand guineas value.

But the power of inspiring tender affection and regard, was not confined to the Sons of the King and Queen; for it appears that even the sight of the Princesses, formed as they were by grace, and adorned with loveliness, penetrated the hearts, and turned the brains, of many of the common people. I

shall mention but two instances of the many of this kind which occured.

Her Majesty was surprised one morning by the receipt of a letter, well written, and composed of correct, and even elegant language, expressing a most devoted and insurmountable passion for her eldest Daughter. The writer expressed his hope of approval, and that he might be permitted to marry the Princess Royal; in which case he trusted to make her completely happy. After this, the man appeared at St. James's, begging leave to be introduced in form, as, from his letter not being answered, he conceived his proposals to have been accepted: silence, he said, implied consent. He was, however, totally disregarded at the time by the officers and persons in attendance, and the matter would, probably, have been soon forgotten; but the poor man presented himself the next day at the Palace at Kew, where, being noticed, he was secured and examined. It appeared that his name was Stone, and that from having seen the Princess Royal several times in public, he had really conceived so violent a love for her as to have deranged his understanding. He was treated with much gentleness, and conveyed to the care of his friends.

Soon after this, a strange man appeared unexpectedly in the apartment of the Princess Elizabeth, at Windsor, who happened to be alone, and, throwing himself at her feet, declared his love for her in all the glowing expression of romantic passion; but seeing Her Royal Highness greatly terrified, and about to call for assistance, the man disappeared as suddenly as he entered. The Princess summoned her attendants, and all were questioned on the subject, even down to the porters; but no one had seen the intruder, and it was generally believed that he had climbed over the garden wall, and got in by ways that had been deemed impracticable. However, the man [illegible]

himself, some days afterwards, at the Palace, trying to gain admission through the regular avenues; and being taken into custody, was examined. It appeared that he was a hair-dresser; and so desperately in love with the lovely young Princess, as to have lost the right use of his reason by the violence of his passion.

This year Windsor was enlivened by a ceremony which took place in St. George's Chapel, which, for splendour, elegance, and solemnity, exceeded every thing of the kind that had taken place before. It was called an Offering of the Knights of the Garter, and should, by the Statutes of the Order, take place twice a year, if a Chapter could be formed; but this has been found so difficult to accomplish, though it required but three Knights, that it seldom took place.

The King, however, who felt, as a man ought to feel, the importance of fulfilling all his engagements, and of making others do the same, as far as might be in his power, determined to give to this ceremony a degree of publicity, which otherwise was not necessary. His Majesty, therefore, presided as Sovereign of the Order; the two other Members of the Chapter being His Royal Highness the Duke of York, and the Duke of Montagu.

The ceremony began by His Majesty bending in solemn reverence to the place: he then walked up the middle of the Chapel, repeating his reverence when advanced half way up the aisle; and on arriving at the altar, kneeling devoutly, he deposited upon it a golden ingot. The Duke of York followed, and repeated the same observances with great exactness, placing another golden ingot on the altar. The Duke of Montagu closed the ceremony in the same manner, depositing also his ingot of gold. Suitable prayers were then said on the occasion; and the ingots, with other contributions, were

ordered to be applied to the relief of the neighbouring poor.

The expectation of this event had drawn together all the rank, beauty, and elegance, that the surrounding counties could produce; so that the Chapel was entirely full before ten o'clock in the morning, and presented an appearance truly splendid and magnificent. Through the whole, the most awful stillness and attention prevailed; and the minds of the spectators received a mingled impression of august dignity, pious awe, and tender ecstasy, that constituted an intellectual gratification of the most interesting and delightful kind. The dignity of His Majesty's deportment, on all public occasions, was well known before, and yet did not fail to be as impressive as ever; but all were enraptured with the Duke of York. His manner was such as expressed grace, tenderness, modesty, and devotion; and inspired, at the same time, reverence for the Prince, and love for the Man.

The following year produced no particular event in the Royal Family. Tranquillity and delight cheered and illumed the domestic circle; and while the younger Sons were improving in all the acquirements suitable to their rank, the younger Princesses were growing in stature, improving in loveliness, and imbibing the most virtuous and excellent principles from the conversation and example of their excellent Mother. The summer of 1788, however, gave occasion for a Royal excursion, which brought calamity on the King and distress on the whole nation.

On the 13th of July, between six and seven o'clock in the morning, Their Majesties, accompanied by the Princess Royal, the Princess Augusta, and the Princess Elizabeth, left Windsor, and proceeded to Nuneham, for the purpose of shewing their continued regard for Lord and Lady Harcourt, where they remained nearly three hours;

some refreshments, the Royal Party continued their journey to Cheltenham, where they arrived before five o'clock, having travelled a distance of nearly a hundred miles in eight hours. The concourse of people who had assembled, in every town on the road through which it was expected the Royal Travellers would pass, was very great; and all expressed, by their acclamations, the delight they felt in seeing their venerated Sovereign, the father and friend of his People.

The day after his arrival, the King began taking the medicinal waters, for which Cheltenham has been so celebrated, and, with an energy which always characterised the Royal mind, determined to make the experiment effectual, by drinking them copiously. In the mean time, as this was also an opportunity of viewing some parts of their native country, which they were not likely to see under any other circumstances, plans were arranged by which the Royal Party might make daily excursions into the surrounding districts.

On the 16th, the King and the Princess Royal went to the Spa, to drink the waters; and, having returned to breakfast, the whole Party set off at ten o'clock, with their attendants, to visit Tewkesbury, so celebrated in Popish times for the splendour of monastic institutions. The Royal Visitors walked through the town, examined attentively the inside of the venerable church, remarking with critical nicety on its style of architecture, and returned the nine miles to Cheltenham by three in the afternoon. As this visit was unexpected, the number of persons assembled on the occasion was not so great as it might have been supposed; but, as if to exemplify the full measure of their feelings, in return for the honour done them by Their Majesties, the people spontaneously illuminated their houses; and there was not even a cottage, however small, without a light in its little casement.

A circumstance in this visit to Tewkesbury strongly exemplifies the extreme goodness of His Majesty's heart and mind. When he first rode into the town, the people stood on the walls of the bridge to see him pass; but observing them in that dangerous situation, and fearing the possible consequences, he kindly said to them, "*My good people*, I fear some of you may fall. Do not run such hazards to see your King—I will ride slowly, that you may all see him."

In a country so beautiful and picturesque as that about Cheltenham, there is so much to attract notice, that the Royal Party found some new object for their attention every day. The whole Family rose very early every morning, and breakfasted after the King had drank the waters at the Spa; then some healthful or amusing excursion was generally made, to fill up the time till dinner. It should be recorded, and for ever remembered, to the honour of the King, that, when he came to Cheltenham, in the very heart of his dominions, he came without military attendants. On this appearing to be the case, an Officer, who commanded a detachment stationed in the neighbourhood, waited upon his Sovereign, to know what guards he would require. "None;" said His Majesty, "I can have no better guards than my People."

The extreme condescension and affability of the Queen and Princesses, delighted every one that could properly have access to them; but in these cases, as I have remarked before, men have greatly the advantage over females: women must be sought for under many restrictions; men can go forth, and put themselves in the way to do acts of courtesy and kindness. This was ever the custom with our benevolent Monarch; and an instance of it occurred in the vicinity of Cheltenham.

The King walking out one morning, unattended, and at some distance from the town, met a [illegible]

looking man, hurrying forwards and in great haste. "So, friend," said His Majesty, "you seem warm."—"Yes, Sir," answered the rustic, "I have come a long way, and I want to see the King."—"Well, my friend," said the King, giving him half-a-guinea, "here is something to refresh you after your journey."—"But where, worthy Sir," inquired the man anxiously, "where can I see the King?"—"Friend," said the Monarch, with his usual kindness, "you see him now before you." It is easy to conceive how highly the poor man would be gratified by these proofs of Royal condescension. It would be an event on which to value himself during the rest of his life, that he had not only seen the King, and spoken with him, but had also experienced his bounty.

I cannot restrain myself, here, from giving a similar proof of paternal kindness in the Monarch, though it occurred a short time before the Royal visit to Cheltenham, because it associates so naturally with the preceding. It will serve also to shew that these incidents sunk deep into the King's heart and memory.

The King, as I have endeavoured to shew already, loved his People as a body; but he never failed to shew, whenever opportunity offered, that he made them the objects of his regard individually. The circumstance which I am about to state may appear to some as trivial, and as being below the notice of a biographer; but I would again remind such, that it is in little matters real character displays itself.

John Middlemist, now an eminent nursery-man, was Head-Gardener in the Kitchen-Garden at Kew, previously to, and after His Majesty's illness. A short time before the King went to Cheltenham, he was walking in that garden, and observing a man up amidst the clustering boughs and foliage of a cherry-tree, gathering fruit, he called to him, (for it was his custom never to pass any labourer in his grounds

"What are you doing there?"
answered respectfully, stating
the King, struck with his
part of Scotland he came from?
mediately, that it was from Rox-
asked after a man who had some
been removed from Kew, to super-
gardens of the Duke of Roxburgh in the
ther conversation passed, which served
Middlemist's capacity; when the kind-
King, ever anxious to confer benefits, ask-
Should you not like to study botany, and be
Botanic-Garden? You must speak to Eaton."*
His Majesty said or ordered in this view is
known to me, though I can suppose it; but the
last time he came to Kew, after recovering from his
lamentable illness, he walked through the Fruit-
Garden with great attention, and at last inquired,
"Where is John Middlemist? Has Eaton removed
him to the Botanic-Garden?" He was immediately
answered in the affirmative, and expressed great
satisfaction on the occasion. The young man, thus
patronised, became a proficient in the science, went
out to take charge of the English Gardens at the
Cape of Good Hope, acquired a property, and now
carries on a large nursery concern in the neighbour-
hood of London.

On the twenty-fifth of July, the King and Queen, accompanied by the three Princesses, went to visit the city of Gloucester. They stopped first at the Bishop's Palace; who, attended by the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral, and many of the principal Clergy of the Diocese, addressed the King in a congratulatory Speech, full of expressions of thankfulness, duty, and affection. They were received most graciously, and had the honour, also, of being presented to the Queen. The Mayor and Corporation

* The Keeper of the grand Botanic-Garden at Kew.

of the City were afterwards admitted, and, by their Town Clerk, expressed the grateful sense they entertained of the high favour shewn them by the Royal Presence. Their Majesties then proceeded to visit the venerable Cathedral, which they examined minutely; and next the great Pin Manufactory, for which Gloucester had so long been celebrated. They also looked at the County Infirmary, inquiring into its economy, number of patients, and resources; and saw the New Gaol, which was then building. The whole Party then returned to the Bishop's Palace, where they waited only till the equipages were ready, and immediately set off for Cheltenham. The multitudes of persons assembled from the surrounding country, to see the Royal Pair, was such as nearly to block up all the streets of the City; but by the judicious arrangements and activity of the Magistrates, Their Majesties experienced no material obstruction.

On the 29th, the King honoured Lord Camden with his company to dinner; and every thing which taste, elegance, and magnificence, could accomplish, were displayed on the occasion. To celebrate it as a day of rejoicing and general festivity, the cellar-doors were thrown open, and the crowds that thronged round the house, from a distance even of many miles, were regaled to their *full* satisfaction, with his Lordship's strong ale, and with substantial refreshments.

The next object of Royal attention was Oakley Grove, the seat of Earl Bathurst, considered to be one of the most magnificent places in the kingdom. Pope, even in his time, celebrated it as such, in the following beautiful Verses, which, independent of the description, convey an instructive moral lesson on the uncertainty of human possessions.

Man? and for ever?—Wretch! what would'st thou have?
Heir urges heir, like wave impelling wave;
All vast possessions, (just the same the case
Whether you call them villa, park, or chase!)

Alas! my Bathurst! what will they avail?
Join Coteswold hills to Saperton's rich dale;
Let rising granaries, and temples, here,
There mingled farms and pyramids appear,
Link town to town with avenues of oak,
Inclose whole downs with walls—'tis all a joke!
Inexorable Death shall level all,
And trees, and stones, and farms, and farmer, fall.

The attentions of the Queen and Princesses were confined to the immediate neighbourhood of Cheltenham for a few of the following days; but on the ninth of August, they proceeded to visit Worcester, and arrived at the Bishop's Palace about eight o'clock in the evening. On this occasion every house in the City was illuminated, and many were decorated with emblematical devices to express the loyal sentiments and feelings of the inhabitants within; and many were made brilliant with clusters or festoons of variegated lamps. The next morning, His Majesty walked through several parts of the City, attended by two Noblemen, and followed by immense numbers of common people, whose exulting acclamations gave full and unequivocal testimony to their feelings on the occasion.

At ten o'clock a Levee was held at the Episcopal Palace, which was attended by all the Noblemen and Gentlemen of the neighbourhood. Lord Coventry introduced the Mayor and Corporation of the place, to present an Address, filled with expressions of loyalty and congratulation. At eleven o'clock, Their Majesties went to hear Divine Service at the Cathedral, where a temporary Throne had been erected; and, after they were seated, the Nobility, Clergy, and the Magistrates, arranged themselves on each side. The Overture of Esther, the Dettingen Te Deum, and the Coronation Anthem, with some other selections from Handel's Sacred Music, were performed in a most masterly style, to the delight of the King, and many others who were present.

On the following morning, at the accustomed hour, the Royal Family attended Service at the Cathedral, encouraging others by their exemplary decorum and pious devotion: and the King was once more gratified with those rich strains of solemn harmony, which are so calculated to raise the soul, and to assist the pouring out of its grateful thanksgivings before the Throne of its Almighty and beneficent Father. The next day, also, was employed in exercising the King's anxious desire to connect himself, in every possible way, with his People. Lord Coventry, as Recorder of the City, had been commissioned, in the name of the Corporation, to solicit the honour of His Majesty's company at the Town-Hall; which was graciously promised. A grand Procession accordingly took place: the various trades, with their banners, led the way, as on a Jubilee; the Maces were borne by the Aldermen; and the Sword of State was carried before His Majesty by the Mayor.

After having viewed the Pictures, the Regalia, and every thing curious or memorable in the place, the King was shewn into a grand apartment, where an elegant collation had been set out. His Majesty's very abstemious habits being well known, and this being intended as a morning repast, the Mayor presented a jelly, hoping it might be honoured with His Majesty's acceptance; when the King graciously said, "I do not recollect ever drinking a glass of wine before dinner in my life; yet upon this pleasing occasion I will venture." A glass of rich old mountain was immediately served by the Mayor, when His Majesty immediately drank, "Success to the Corporation and Citizens of Worcester." This being made known to the populace, an universal shout of applause pervaded the Hall, and almost the whole Town, for several minutes. The King then addressed himself to the Corporation, inquiring, if there were any thing in his power to do for them, that might tend to in-

crease their happiness or their prosperity? The Earl of Coventry, in the name of his brethren, answered, that they begged to tender their most grateful thanks to the King for the honour he had done their City; and that they had nothing further to wish from his goodness, than that he would sit for his picture, to be placed in their Hall, as a memorial to their posterity of His Majesty's gracious condescension.

The King consented; saying, "Gentlemen, I grant you this, or any request you can reasonably make to me." The ceremony soon afterwards was concluded; and then His Majesty accompanied the Queen and Princesses to the Cathedral, to hear a very fine performance of the Messiah. They also attended a Grand Miscellaneous Concert in the evening, at the Music-Room, where an elegant box had been built for their reception, so as to give a full view of the beloved Monarch and his amiable Family to all that were present. The next day the Royal Family returned to Cheltenham, where the Queen was attacked by a slight indisposition, which prevented all excursions for a few days.

But the King could not, as a wise and patriotic Sovereign, leave this part of his dominions, without bestowing his kind attentions on those manufactures for which the district was celebrated; for he well knew, that the manufactures of a country are the elements of its commerce, and that its commerce is its strength and its power. In consequence of this feeling, the Royal travellers paid a visit to Stroud, the place most celebrated for fine woollen cloth manufactures of all the establishments in England. Every testimony of attachment that a well-affected people could shew, was displayed on this joyful occasion: a very respectable party of Gentlemen met the Royal Family after their departure from Cheltenham, conducting them through an extensive district, deservedly celebrated for its industry its manufactures; and taking pains to shew

thing that might be likely to attract attention, or to gratify curiosity, by its novelty, its ingenuity, or its magnitude. After inspecting the whole process of manufacturing woollen cloth, from the first to the finished state, in the establishment of Mr. Paul, and partaking of refreshments under his hospitable roof, the Royal Party proceeded to the Seat of Lord Ducie, where a collation had been provided against their arrival.

The following day the King rode to Gloucester, on a visit to the Bishop, with whom he remained an hour; and then returned to Cheltenham, attended merely as a private Gentleman. The next morning, the whole of the Royal Party left Cheltenham, driving very slowly through the principal street, which was thronged on each side with Noblemen, Gentlemen, and Ladies, all anxious to take leave of their Royal Patrons. The King and Queen continued bowing on each side of the carriage all the way; and sometimes speaking to those they most knew: the Town's-people attended in crowds, to testify their veneration for a Monarch, who, during his stay among them, had conducted himself with the complaisance of a Gentleman, and with the true dignity of a King. The Royal party reached Windsor the same evening. Thus ended the excursion of our venerated Sovereign, and his amiable Queen and Daughters, to the Spa at Cheltenham: and every one felt rejoiced that any part of the Country could furnish so much to soothe, to interest, and to gratify, the illustrious Family.

But before the autumn had closed in, the King's health appeared to be affected with symptoms which made him uneasy, and which gave still greater uneasiness to the Queen; because in His Majesty's first illness, four years after their marriage, she had entirely devoted herself to attend upon him, and had so actively and so closely fulfilled that intention, that scarcely any one knew the nature of the com-

plaint but herself: she, therefore, looked with all the anxious solicitude of trembling affection on any, even the slightest symptom, that might seem to threaten a return of the former complaint.

The King's principal Physician was at length sent for, and after a while wasted in useless, because unskilful experiments, the other physicians were successively commanded to attend; and were consulting and prescribing for His Majesty during more than a month, without any diminution of the fever that preyed upon him. Here we have opportunity, by means of contrast, to appreciate the excellent qualities of the Queen's heart and mind; for, in the instance which I have just stated, though she was little more than twenty-one years old, she felt how improper, how cruel it would be, to distress a friendly attached People by the intelligence of their Sovereign being ill, if it could possibly be kept from their knowledge; and her unceasing personal exertions were the penalty of accomplishing this intention. On the present occasion, when further judgment and experience than her own seemed necessary, the Queen yielded to the occasion; and medical men of high repute, and attached to His Majesty, (as might be supposed) by their appointments, were called upon to examine and prescribe, in the full confidence that they would act like men of strict honour; but whether they wanted that strict gentlemanly feeling which is necessary in the profession, or whether the circumstance of His Majesty's health being in a doubtful state was a piece of intelligence too big for their retention, is uncertain: the fact, however, is, that each told it immediately to his respective patients, lest he should be behindhand with his brethren; the patients told it to their friends; and at length it became public, that the King was frequently consulting his physicians. The inferences drawn from this fact were various: and [illegible], with her many tongues, laboured for many days

exaggerate and distort, careless of the hearts that were wounded, as well as of the interests that were sacrificed, by the endeavour.

On the 24th of October, the King held a Levee at St. James's Palace, in order that, by shewing himself to his friends, and in some degree to the public, he might dissipate those reports which had been so industriously circulated, of his being dangerously ill, and which had tended materially to depress the national funds. The King's Physician, Sir George Baker, having been frequently called on to prescribe for His Majesty, after his return from Cheltenham, and having, in the course of the same time, sold out several large sums which he had in stock, created an alarm, and produced this depression, which was likely to be injurious to the public credit.

The King, at this time, was far from well; but he made an effort on the occasion, which augmented his indisposition. He remained, however, but a quarter of an hour at the Levee, and then retired, complaining of being not so well as he could wish.

It was announced, in the Gazettee of the first of November, that the Queen would hold a Drawing Room on the sixth of the month; but, in that interval, the King's disorder increased so much, and was accompanied by such an appearance of agitation, that, on the morning of the day in which it was appointed to be held, the Queen sent a messenger to St. James's Palace, to say that the Drawing Room would not take place.

Thus the symptoms of disorder in the King had continued fifteen days, and with rapidly increasing violence, so that alarm became general. The Prince of Wales, with dutiful solicitude, went post to Windsor to see his afflicted Father; the Lord Chancellor was sent down to see the state of the Sovereign's health, and, after remaining at Windsor a

day and a night, returned to London with very melancholy statements.

The general opinion was, that the acting physician, having prescribed the waters of Cheltenham, as likely to improve His Majesty's health, had been mistaken in the quantity he recommended, or that the King had exceeded the prescription: others thought that he had kept himself on too low a diet during the time of taking those powerful waters, and had carelessly, as was his custom, exposed his person to the vicissitudes of the weather, as well as of exercise and rest; but all agreed in dating the King's illness from the time of his being at Cheltenham. Indeed I know, from private information, that a very eminent medical professor, resident in that town, and who observed, with the eye of long experience on the subject, what was going on, thought it his duty to call upon one of His Majesty's principal attendants, to offer his opinion. He knew the nature of the Cheltenham waters perfectly well, and he conveyed his opinion in a very few words:—"They will certainly drive the King mad—they do not know what they are about."

In the mean time, from the second to the ninth of November, the politicians were in a state of great agitation, and every moment exhibited couriers on the Windsor road, posting backwards or forwards with unusual expedition. The Opposition Party, it appears, did every thing in their power to increase the alarm; but as Mr. Fox, their leader, was then supposed to be in Italy, they sent an express to find and bring him home, feeling themselves incompetent to manage the occasion sufficiently to their advantage, without his powerful assistance.

In the night of the ninth, the King's malady seemed to reach a crisis; and it was accompanied by such an excess of delirium, that it was confidently believed he could not live many hours. Pitt continued at Windsor all the night and

of the next day, and this gave some kind of ground for a rumour, which spread rapidly through the Metropolis, that the King was dead. The dejection and melancholy which seemed at once to overspread every face, even amongst the lower classes of the people, shewed at once how entirely the King was beloved. The various Members of Opposition were brought instantly to town, by expresses from such of their friends as were left upon the spot to keep watch for their interests; and it was in *their* countenances, only, that satisfaction could be discovered: they looked as though they felt assured of being about to resume those appointments, and to enjoy those emoluments, from which they had been disgracefully driven but a few years before. They founded their sanguine expectations on the dangerous state of the King; on the patronage the Prince of Wales had always given them; and on the necessity they conceived there would indispensably be to appoint him Regent.

This calamitous occurrence took place at a moment of extreme difficulty; for the Parliament had been prorogued to the 20th of November, though with an intention of proroguing it further till January, which the King's sudden illness rendered impossible; so that the Legislative Bodies must necessarily meet on the day appointed. On the other hand, the Prince of Wales seemed deeply afflicted by the dangerous state of the King, and the painfully trying situation of his Mother, for whom he had always entertained the most tender and respectful attachment. Fully possessed by these filial sentiments, he seemed to give no encouragement to the eager hopes of Mr. Fox's adherents, who met every day openly, and discussed, with little decency, the respective offices that each should fill, in the expected new Administration: they treated the name of the Sovereign with as

little consideration as if he were already in the grave.

The Queen's situation was, however, more trying and difficult than that of any other individual in the kingdom; for, while her affectionate heart was rent with anguish, she was obliged to assume and shew the appearance of hope and of fortitude, for the sakes of those about her who depended so much on her example. But the mind of this Lady was endowed with extraordinary powers, as her heart was with extraordinary virtues: and an instance which I am about to state, will fully prove this, and I shall introduce it with one remark only. While I pledge myself for the correctness of the narration, I would beg the reader to consider, that, as the knowledge of it could come to me only from one or other of the two Ladies concerned, it ought to prove at once the valuable authenticity of this work as a biographical record.

The Queen, with the tender unceasing affection which had marked the whole of her married life, persevered in sleeping with the King, till the night before he was put under the restraint that had been contemplated. However, as the evening approached, she felt so much alarmed, that she determined to sleep in a bed in an adjoining apartment; and such was her influence over His Majesty, even under these distressful circumstances, that she was successful in persuading him to go to bed alone. The Queen also went to bed; but not to rest, as may be easily conjectured, attached as she was to such a husband, and looking forward to those situations which were likely to ensue from the expected increase of his malady. A lady, whose name I will not mention, who was honoured with the Queen's confidence, sat at the side of the bed, holding one of Her Majesty's hands, in an endeavour to [illegible] her, during many hours. In the middle

night, the door of the apartment slowly opened, and the King entered, in his dressing-gown and night-cap, carrying a candle in his hand.

The Queen, upon this occasion, evinced a command of mind, and a degree of fortitude, that is almost beyond credit. She was instantly aware what would be the consequences of increasing the excitations of the King's mind, and immediately feigned herself asleep, as did the Lady attendant. The deranged Monarch, whose kind and benevolent affections never forsook him, even in his most severe wanderings, approached the bed, with his light extended for the purpose; and, after looking on the Queen for some time with extreme tenderness, walked away, went to bed, and it was believed slept soundly till the morning.

Are there, I would ask, any that can read this instance of self-possession and strength of mind, under such trying circumstances, without admiring the incomparable Woman? Are there any that can imagine the tender, yet afflicted husband, leaning over the wife of his affections, and not sympathize with him? Yes, there are such; for there are some men, (thank God that they are so few in this country!) who can perceive neither virtue nor goodness in persons of Royal rank. If there were not such men, then there would have been no occasion for writing a work like this, in defence of an injured and calumniated Queen.

The Houses of Parliament met according to the prorogation; and each House, after passing a resolution for ensuring a full attendance, adjourned for fourteen days. This was an acceptable proceeding to both sides; for it gave to the Minister the opportunity of ascertaining further the nature of His Majesty's illness, before he should recommend any steps to be taken in consequence of it; and it gave to the Opposition, time for the arrival of their hero and champion from his Continental tour. And now

the two greatest politicians, the two most powerful orators of the age, were about to engage once more, with all the warmth of opposition, on a subject of vital importance to the Constitution and to the People. Mr. Pitt's chief supporters, on this memorable occasion, were his knowledge, his abilities, his virtue, his loyalty, and his patriotism; Mr. Fox had, to sustain him, his splendid talents, his anxiety for power, the influence of the great families, and the countenance of the Prince of Wales; for His Royal Highness was, at this period, too young and inexperienced to see into the deep schemes and complicated intrigues of veteran politicians; and the subtle rhetoric of Messrs. Fox, Sheridan, and Erskine, had been successful in persuading the Prince to believe, that, because those whom he patronized were enemies to Mr. Pitt, Mr. Pitt was an inveterate enemy to the Prince. I shall state the results only of the proceedings which followed, as far as they were connected with the Royal Family; for this is not a political work, and I am no politician.

On the day previous to the re-assembling of Parliament, a Privy-Council was convened, to which all persons, of either party, who had ever been honoured with a seat there, were summoned; and the attendance was, as might be expected, exceedingly numerous. The Physicians, who had been in attendance upon the King, were ordered to attend, and give their opinions before this august assembly. They were minutely and closely questioned, as to the progress and present state of His Majesty's complaint; and as to the probability of a recovery. The collective amount of the replies was, "That the King was *then* much better than he had been during the whole, or any part of his illness; and that *a recovery might reasonably be expected.*"

After the Physicians had retired, the Council came to a resolution, "That the

proceedings should be laid before Parliament, and that a Committee of both Houses should be appointed, to search for precedents, and report their progress on the Monday following, to which time Parliament should be adjourned; then to receive the report of the Committee, and to adopt such measures as might be necessary in consequence."

The proceeding thus recommended, was adopted by both Houses, as far as a postponement of the consideration of this momentous subject till the 8th of December; and when re-assembled on that day, they decided that the King's Physicians should be examined by Committees of their own; which were accordingly appointed, and a week was allowed for the examination. Committees were also appointed, to look for precedents of what had been done on any former occasion, when the functions of the Crown were suspended. But, in the discussions which necessarily arose out of these arrangements, the Opposition could not help manifesting, (in the Lords as well as in the Commons,) their indecent eagerness for power: they intimated, that a Regent must be appointed, and that such office belonged of right to the Prince of Wales. These ideas were urged with great vehemence, even before the subject had in any shape been proposed; and they were as strongly combated by the Members of His Majesty's Government. It was upon this occasion that the Duke of York made his first speech in the House of Lords, which he did with modest dignity, for the purpose of preventing any reference to a supposed abstract right in the Prince, his brother, to the powers of the Regency. In fact, he said, no such right had ever been urged, or even hinted at, by the Prince; and he felt most confident in stating, that his Royal Highness understood too well those sacred principles which seated the House of Brunswick on the Throne of Great

Britain, ever to assume or exercise a power, be his claim what it might, that was not *derived from* THEIR LORDSHIPS, and from the WILL OF THE PEOPLE, *convened through their Representatives in* PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED. These sentiments were, I have no doubt, the sentiments of the Prince of Wales's heart; and if he had been left to those noble feelings, without the interference of insidious advisers, there would have been no discussion on the subject: but the Party who had contrived to identify themselves with His Royal Highness, urged his supposed right, which *they* knew Mr. Pitt was bound in duty to oppose, in order that, when he should have obtained the powers of government, *they* might be secure of becoming his ministers and servants. The King's Ministers most manfully determined to have the question discussed and decided, for the sake of posterity; and it was afterwards most ably canvassed in both Houses, though not without great warmth of expression and feeling. The precedents furnished by a research into our history, went fully to establish the power of Parliament to appoint a Regent, either in or out of the Royal Family, on any temporary suspension of the Sovereign's capacity to act, and with such restrictions, by a Council or otherwise, as they should judge proper.

The Report of the examination of the King's Physicians, was at length laid before Parliament by the Committee appointed for that purpose. Four out of five of them, (two of whom had been for many years accustomed to practise in similar cases,) gave their opinion, That His Majesty was much better, though not recovered; and they were confident of his recovery at no very distant period. The fifth Physician, a person of great eminence, but known to be warmly attached to Mr. [redacted] his coadjutors, gave his opinion, That the [redacted] recovery was very doubtful; and, that [redacted]

disorder had already continued so long, it was likely to continue a great deal longer; but he confessed, that *he was not much used, in his practice, to cases of a similar kind.*

On this foundation, Mr. Pitt brought forwards certain resolutions, entreating the Prince of Wales to become Regent of the Kingdom; at the same time restraining him, for a time, from granting the dignity of a Peer of the Realm; from granting places in reversion; and from giving pensions, except during pleasure. It was urged, in support of this measure, that there was authority for believing, that the suspension of the King's powers to govern would be but of short continuance, and that His Majesty ought to find, on resuming his functions, that none of the means of royal graciousness and benevolence had been diminished.—Mr. Fox argued, on the other side, the Prince's inherent right to the Regency; that the King's recovery was acknowledged to be doubtful by one Physician; that to fetter the Regent with such restrictions, was to take from him the power of rewarding his servants; and that it implied a distrust of his good conduct, both insulting and disgraceful to His Royal Highness.—Mr. Pitt, in a strain of the most powerful eloquence, combated these arguments. He said, the arrangement was proposed but for a time; that the Parliament, which made it, could repeal, or alter the restrictions, whenever the King's recovery should be despaired of; and that the restrictions were not meant to convey the slightest disrespect to the Prince of Wales, but a distrust of those who were likely to become his advisers, of whose principles and views the nation had lately had such alarming experience.

Upon this the Opposition, always irritable, grew outrageously warm, and, as usual, poured out torrents of invective without care or discrimination. They boldly impeached the credibility of the four

petent judge, *she alone might have the care of the King's person.* Is there any man of sentiment, or even of common honesty, in this country, that will not applaud her for this solicitude? Is there an Englishwoman, that will not admire and revere her Queen, for this earnestness to obtain the only boon that could yield any thing like comfort to her almost widowed bosom? I am convinced the whole nation would have despised her, if she had acted otherwise. Yet this was actually the whole sum of her offending, with many of the ambitious politicians of the time; and for this they continued to attack her sacred fame, during many years afterwards, with unfounded insinuations and slanders. It was the beginning of that system of misrepresenting the character of Her Majesty, which has prevailed, more or less, ever since; and which gave occasion for this Memoir to be written.

But the Report of the Physicians, so far from being too promising, might even have held out a greater degree of hope, had they thought it discreet to give the full amount of their expectations. Many of the facts that are in my possession corroborate this averment; of which, however, I shall give one only.

The King had been removed from Windsor Castle to the Palace at Kew, that being a situation more retired and tranquil; and at the time the Physicians underwent an examination, with a view to ascertain the real state of His Majesty's health, he was so much recovered as to be allowed once a day to walk in the gardens. It is well known how fond the King ever was of gardening, and of all rural pursuits and employments; and I have endeavoured to shew the invariable custom he had of manifesting a love for his people, by saying something kind to almost all whom he met with in his walks, particularly if they were of the poorer orders. To avoid this, if possible, directions were

given at Kew, by the Physicians, that whenever it should be understood the King was coming into the garden, all the gardeners, labourers, and workmen, should withdraw themselves. It happened, however, one day, that, not being apprised of the Royal invalid's approach, or being disobediently anxious to see their beloved Sovereign, the men were so tardy, that the King had time to observe their sudden retreat, which seemed greatly to distress his mind. He turned to his superintendant to ask the reason; and, finding, from the evasive answers, that it had been so ordered, the King said, with considerable emotion, "Poor fellows! let them stay—*they know that I will not hurt them.*"

This circumstance, which I had from a gentleman who was present, preyed upon His Majesty's mind for some days, so that it was found necessary to repeal the order; and the kind-hearted Monarch had again the satisfaction of seeing some portion of those whom he loved to call his people.—A fact of this kind proves more than ten thousand arguments, however ingeniously managed.

The Resolutions were finally carried in both Houses of Parliament, by a very large majority; and Mr. Pitt communicated the substance of the proceedings, in a very respectful Letter, to the Prince of Wales; which, after stating the views and intentions of Parliament with respect to a Regency Bill, concluded with saying, "If Your Royal Highness should be pleased to require any further explanation on the subject, and should condescend to signify your orders, that I should have the honour of attending Your Royal Highness for that purpose; or to intimate any other mode, in which Your Royal Highness would wish to receive such explanation; I shall respectfully wait Your Royal Highness's commands."

At the end of three days, the Prince of Wales

returned an answer to Mr. Pitt's communication; making, in the first part, long and severe comments on the proceedings in Parliament, such as might be conceived to originate, not from his own breast, but from the disappointed feelings of his advisers. In the conclusion, however, His Royal Highness spoke like the Son of a British King, and, I am persuaded, without any dictation but that which grew out of the decisions of his own judgment. That part of the Prince's letter ought to be recorded. It is written, as Princes and Princesses write when they wish to keep any one at a respectful distance, in the third person.

"The Prince has discharged an indispensable duty in thus giving his free opinion on the plan submitted to his consideration.

"The conviction of the inconveniences that may arise to the King's interests, to the peace and happiness of the Royal Family, and to the safety and welfare of the Nation, from the government of the country remaining longer in its present maimed and debilitated state, outweighs in the Prince's mind every other consideration, and will determine him to undertake the painful trust imposed upon him by the present melancholy necessity, (which of all the King's subjects he deplores the most,) in full confidence, that the affection and loyalty to the King, the experienced attachment to the House of Brunswick, and the generosity which has always distinguished this Nation, will carry him through the many difficulties inseparable from this most critical situation, with comfort to himself, with honour to the King, and with advantage to the Public."

In the mean time, both Houses of Parliament had come to an arrangement, by which the Great Seal was put into commission; and the Parliament was accordingly opened in due form. Their first step was to bring in a Bill for appointing the Prince of Wales Regent, during the King's incapacity, with certain restrictions, founded on the Resolutions previously passed, and giving the care of the King's person and household to Her Majesty, with

a Council, to consist of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Chief Justice of the King's Bench, the Lord Chamberlain, and a Lord of the Bedchamber.

When this measure was in discussion, the Opposition urged the improbability of the Prince of Wales consenting to accept a limited power, when he had a right to the whole; but Mr. Pitt was prepared to state the Prince's acceptance of the propositions. They then tried a new expedient, in proposing that the King's capacity to resume the government should be decided by Parliament—in which they well knew they should, when Ministers of the Regent, have a prospect of a majority; and then, as they appeared to wish from the beginning of these proceedings, the King might have been kept in a state of pretended incapacity as long as it suited their purposes.—To this an argument of irresistible force was opposed: "The incapacity of the King to exercise those functions which were his right by the Constitution, and which were necessary for the public good, must be acknowledged and declared by Parliament, before a substitute for the Royal authority could be proposed; but the moment the King felt himself competent to act, his right to do so followed as a matter of course."

This was almost the last effort of the Opposition; for the King's health continued to improve so rapidly, that attempts were made to induce the Prince of Wales to adopt, for a time, the existing Ministers of Government, lest, after so long a delay of public business by the calamitous interception, the new elections, consequent upon new appointments, might be productive of serious consequences. But the Opposition, whose eager desire was for place, proceeded to arrange a new Cabinet and a new Administration for the Regent, to commence as soon as the Act for his appointment should have passed both Houses of Parliament. A

The House of Lords, to whom the Bill had been presented by the Commons for this purpose, had freely discussed it, always with a decided approbation of its enactment; and were assembled, on the nineteenth of February, to deliberate on the last clause in this important measure, when the Lord Chancellor rose, and stated to the House, that he had seen the King the day before; that, since their last examination, the Physicians had observed increased symptoms of recovery; and that these, added to many other favourable circumstances, induced them to look forwards to His Majesty's perfect recovery. He therefore recommended to delay, for a short time, the passing a Bill, which had, for its basis, the declaration of the King's incapacity to govern, and to appoint the twenty-fourth for resuming the subject.

During this short interval, the King became so much amended in his health, as to be able to receive the visits of affection and duty which the Queen and the Princesses were so anxious to pay. It may easily be conceived by those who have attended to the character of this excellent Husband and Father, as I have endeavoured to unfold it, what a solace his harassed mind must have found in their tender and delicate caresses. After this, the King walked out, and gave a variety of orders respecting improvements in the gardens; extending his excursions as far as Richmond, where he remained some time, amusing himself with the astronomical instruments in the Observatory. He afterwards walked for two hours with Sir Joseph Banks, discoursing with him on the recent proceedings of the Royal Society, of which that gentleman is President; and finally gave audience to the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, and Mr. Pitt.

The Physicians, after this, declared that the King required nothing further to perfect his

re-establishment, than to refrain from public business till the vigour of his constitution was restored; recommending to all who came about him, to decline such subjects, whenever His Majesty seemed disposed to lead to them. But this precaution was useless: the King, as a man of conscience, felt that his duties as a Sovereign had been greatly interrupted; and he determined to make the restored vigour of his mind, atone for the languid state of his body. In the following days he continued to take exercise; conversed with all who were introduced to him, on subjects of business or common-place topics, as occasion required, and always in such a way as to evince the complete re-establishment of his mind.

The Queen, however, had been waited upon by a deputation from Parliament, consisting of two Peers and fourteen Commoners, offering to Her Majesty the care of her Royal Consort, and his Household, in the event of the Bill, then in progress, passing into a law: and it is not difficult for those who can judge of the feelings of a wife under such circumstances, to imagine the gratification of Her Majesty, on learning, at length, that she should not be deprived, by political intrigues, of the power to render those tender offices of affection and duty to a beloved Husband, which none but a wife can effectually perform. Her Majesty thus answered the deputation:

"My Lords, and Gentlemen,

"My duty and gratitude to the King, and the sense I must ever entertain of my obligations to this Country, will certainly engage my most earnest attentions to the anxious and momentous trust intended to be reposed in me by Parliament. It will be a great consolation to me to receive the aid of Council, of which I shall stand so much in need, in the discharge of a duty, in which the happiness of my future life is indeed deeply interested, but which a higher object, the happiness of a great, loyal, and affectionate People, renders still more important."

In spite, however, of the many unquestionable demonstrations of the King's rapidly approaching recovery, the London newspapers, devoted to the party of Mr. Fox, shewed the bitterness of their disappointment, by professing to doubt the fact; while their meaner agents laboured, throughout the kingdom, to make it appear a political juggle between Her Majesty and Mr. Pitt. But the testimony of a great number of most respectable persons, who had been admitted to converse with the King, soon put the fact beyond doubt, with all who were not interested in seeming to disbelieve it. The tenth of March was at length fixed upon, as the day on which His Majesty would resume the Royal functions; and as soon as it was known to be so intended, the circumstance created an universal joy over the whole country. If ever a Sovereign could have reason to consider himself as entirely possessed of the affections of his People, it was a consolation dispensed to George the Third of England on this memorable occasion. Cities, towns, villages, even detached families, put forth their signs of rejoicing, as if not only a public, but even a private benefit, had been bestowed by the King's Restoration.

The Metropolis is commonly taken as the standard on these national occasions; but in order to have formed, or be enabled to convey, any adequate idea of the general and loyal display of the evening, a tour through the whole cities of London and Westminster would have been absolutely necessary. Every square and street, and almost every lane and ally, in the Metropolis, exhibited tokens of unbounded attachment to the Sovereign, and of joy for his Recovery.

The numerous crowds of spectators in all parts, on foot and in carriages, added to the spectacle, which was in many places superbly brilliant; in others, neatly elegant; and in all, exhibited the

strongest marks of national festivity. Bands of wind instruments, with marrow-bones and cleavers, bells, singers, &c. paraded with "transport and rude harmony." At the West end of the town, the throng of Noblemen and Gentlemen's carriages the whole night, from nine o'clock till two or three in the morning, exceeded what had ever been seen on any former occasion; and the gratification afforded to men, women, and children, (of which latter many were seen in carriages, and in arms) well repaid them for their nightly excursion.

The villages of Islington, Highgate, and Hampstead, appeared, from Queen's-square and Bedford-square, as striking terminations of this general scene of rejoicing; and the villages on the other side of the Metropolis were equally zealous to increase this wonderful display.

The following is a little sketch of the Queen's Illumination at Kew.

Against the wall, opposite the front of the house, was a most splendid arrangement of different coloured lamps. In the centre of this brilliant spectacle, was a large transparent picture by Rebecca, who painted the scenes for the Opera House. It represented Æsculapius holding up towards Heaven a medallion of the King, unadorned with the laurel wreath. Providence, represented by a female figure, was in the act of dropping the laurel on the uncrowned head; and Britannia, kneeling, with arms extended, seemed ready to receive her King, with a countenance finely expressive of gratitude and joy. Over the picture was a pediment of lamps, at the top of which was a crown, and, under the crown, the letters "G. III. the beloved Father of his People." Under the picture were the following lines:

"Our prayers are heard, and Providence restores
"A patriot King, to bless Britannia's shores,
"But not to Britain is the bliss confin'd,
"All Europe hails the Friend of human kind.

" If such the general joy, what words can shew
" The change to transport, from the depths of woe,
" In *those*, permitted to embrace again
" THE BEST OF FATHERS, HUSBANDS, AND OF MEN!"

On each side of the picture was a pilaster of lamps, at each gate an arch of lamps, and, between the arches and pillars, festoons, coronets, &c. forming a beautifnl display of light.

Of private houses, the Prince of Wales, Dukes of Gloucester, Cumberland, Marlborough, and Montagu; Lords Dartmouth, Walsingham, Uxbridge, Sydney, Derby, Grosvenor, Aylesford, Willoughby, Winchelsea, Aylesbury, Chesterfield, Shaftesbury, Stormont, Gower, Chatham, Stanhope, and a great number of others, displayed very brilliant illuminations; some of which were, in the course of the night, renewed.

Lord Hopetoun, in Cavendish-square, exhibited a very grand and magnificent transparency, covering the whole front of the house, (which had been the Princess Amelia's,) which conveyed the highest sentiments of joy, loyalty, and affection: this, perhaps, was the most expensive;—and Lord Westmoreland's might be mentioned as the most simply elegant; the house was universally illuminated, and in the four drawing-room windows, transparencies, with wreaths of flowers, and "GOD SAVE THE KING;" a sentence that was repeated in many windows, and echoed by the universal voice of the people.—The Earl of Macclesfield had the words of the Coronation Anthem, in three emblazoned stars,—"GOD SAVE THE KING,"—"LONG LIVE THE KING,"—"MAY THE KING LIVE FOR EVER."—Sir Joseph Banks displayed an elegant painting, representing the King receiving his Crown from the Genius of Physic—the motto, "Redeunt Saturnia Regna;" the likeness and execution very beautiful.

In point of splendour, and blaze of light, perhaps Sir Sampson Gideon, in Arlington-street, exceeded

every thing ever attempted. "LONG LIVE THE KING," in lamps of various colours, together with the whole illumination, had a most striking effect. These, however numerous, might be said to have been a few of the most remarkable; to which should be added one near Cavendish-square, the Crown, &c. in variegated lamps, in the centre window; on one side a transparency of Hygeia, presenting a medallion with the Sovereign's head, and beneath, "BY THE GRACE OF GOD;" on the other side, a transparency of Hope.

The Tradesmen, in all parts of the City, and in the West end of the town, added to the general lustre; and all seemed with one voice to join in hailing the happy Restoration of their King!

The Queen, whose heart was highly elated on this occasion, came privately to town with three of the Princesses, and went to see the different Illuminations in the Metropolis, without being known, in the carriage of one of the Maids of Honour. Her Majesty was delighted even to ecstasy, and sometimes nearly overpowered, on observing the sentiments of devoted attachment to the King, which were displayed in almost every house, and which were echoed without ceasing from every voice.

When Her Majesty and the Princesses returned to Kew, which was not till between one and two o'clock in the morning, who should be at the door of the Palace to receive them, and make an affectionate inquiry after their amusement, but His Majesty, who himself opened the coach-door, and handed his Royal Consort from her carriage?—Such attention and politeness in a great Sovereign, not long risen from a bed of sickness, was certainly, till this time, a novelty among the anecdotes of Princes.

The King dined that day at Windsor, whose the joy of the people was unbounded, on beholding their beloved Monarch restored to health. ..But the

manifestations of thankfulness, for this new proof of a kind and gracious Providence watching over the welfare of Britain, were not confined to London or Windsor, or to any particular class of the King's subjects. When the pressure of calamity was heavy upon him, the Roman Catholics prayed for his recovery in their chapels; the Presbyterians supplicated God to have mercy on their King; the Methodists poured out their fervent ejaculations, that he might be restored to his People; the National Church added a sublime prayer to its Liturgy for the same purpose; and the Jews also came devoutly before the altar of the God of Abraham and Isaac, to invoke his blessing on the King of England, that he might be relieved from that terrible visitation. When at length it pleased the Divine Ruler of the World to grant the object so earnestly prayed for by a great and united Nation, the same communities assembled themselves again, in order to pour out their grateful thanksgivings, for that the God of Mercy had heard their prayers.

Four days after these public, and, as it may justly be said, spontaneous effusions of national joy, the Queen went to Covent-Garden Theatre, with three of her lovely Daughters, for the purpose of re-opening a personal intercourse with the generous-hearted People, who had so sympathized in her affliction, and had taken so lively a part in the exultation of her happiness. As soon as Her Majesty entered the Royal Box, which she did a minute or two before the Princesses, the burst of acclamations from all quarters was excessive. At the same moment the green curtain drew up, and displayed a transparency, which the zeal and loyalty of the Managers had prepared, exhibiting the King's Arms, with a scroll supported by cherubs, and inscribed with the words, "LONG LIVE THE KING," and underneath, "MAY THE KING LIVE FOR EVER." The Queen was exceed-

and burst into tears, which seemed
relief: the Princesses, entering the Box
contributed, by their soothing atten-
restore Her Majesty to composure. This
Royal emotion and tenderness, however,
continued some time, and the crowded audience
looked on with delighted admiration; till, thinking
likely to arouse the Queen's attention, the whole
body of the persons assembled called unanimously
for the choral song of "God save the King," which
was sung immediately by the principal vocal per-
formers of the Theatre. The song was unani-
mously encored; and the Queen, being by this time
collected to a sense of her situation, took part in
the general demonstration of loyalty, and beat time
on the front of the Box with her fan. The play
was then suffered to begin; but in the course of the
performance a suitable opportunity arising, Mr.
Edwin, who had been accustomed for many years
to receive marks of gracious approbation from His
Majesty, gave as a toast, "The King's health;"
which occasioned a tumult of applause for many
minutes. At the end of the play, *God save the
King* was again called for, and was again sung
twice. At the end of the pantomime, the song was
once more called for; and the vocal performers
having then left the Theatre, the audience sang it
without assistance, twice over.

But besides these demonstrations of popular
rejoicing and loyalty, many public bodies collec-
tively, many private associations, many individuals,
gave galas and splendid entertainments on this
memorable occasion; and they are too honourable
to the national character, to be passed over without
noticing some of the most splendid.

The first that I shall mention was given by a
club of gentlemen, who hired the Pantheon for the
purpose, which was lighted by more than fourteen
thousand lamps, besides the lustres, girandoles,

side-lights, and detached illuminations in the contiguous apartments: the whole arrangements were beautiful beyond conception. Over the Orchestra was a transparency of the King, in his coronation robes, with the motto so perfectly suited to almost every mind,

"Rex amatus Redux!"

Over this was a large Crown of coloured lamps, suspended from the ceiling; and numerous devices and mottos were distributed wherever the place seemed suitable. The directors of these arrangements were, Lords Coventry, Chesterfield, Winchelsea, Strathaven, and Stopford. At ten o'clock, company began to assemble; and by half after eleven, nearly fourteen hundred persons were present; consisting of Noblemen, Ladies, Gentlemen, Ambassadors, Ministers, and others. The Duchesses of Gordon and Buccleugh having publicly mentioned that Ladies were expected to come in an uniform suited to the occasion, most of them appeared in white satin, elegantly decorated with gold fringe, gold bandeaus round the arms and waist, and gold tassels on the shoulders. Every female head had a riband, with a motto expressive of rejoicing. Some few Ladies wore at their bosoms medallions of his Majesty, surrounded with diamond spangles. The Gentlemen generally wore the dresses in which they had appeared at the Queen's Drawing-Room on the 29th of March. There were seven supper rooms, most magnificently set out, and most liberally supplied; and, out of the company, which consisted of more than fifteen hundred Ladies and Gentlemen, eleven hundred sat down to sup. At seven o'clock in the morning, *God save the King* was called for by a Lady in the company; which all joined in singing, assisted by the band of musicians attending.

The Lord Mayor of London, and his Lady, gave

a brilliant entertainment to more than four hundred persons at the Mansion House, which was highly decorated; and kept their guests in a state of delighted festivity till five o'clock the next morning.

The Queen, as might naturally be expected, was not the last to shew similar proofs of her rejoicing: she gave an entertainment at Windsor, fully suitable in splendour and magnificence to the importance of the occasion, and to the grandeur of the place. The banquet was more sumptuous than any thing that had been seen before in this country; and the day was made memorable, by its being the first appearance of the King in public company since his illness. There are few, I am persuaded, that will not perceive the wisdom and the affectionate character of the Queen, in thus preparing her beloved Husband for public duties, by introducing him first to a circle of persons, which, however numerous, was known to be his devoted friends.

At seven o'clock the Drawing-Room began, in which the King and Queen were seated under a superb canopy. His Majesty was in a full-dress uniform of blue and gold, looking exceedingly well, though somewhat thinner than before his illness: the Queen was most splendidly attired and ornamented, having a bandeau of diamonds round the front of her head-dress, formed into the words "God save the King:" the Princesses were dressed nearly the same as their Royal Parent.

The company was more numerous than had ever been assembled at Windsor upon any former occasion, and consisted of almost all the Nobility of the empire, with their Ladies, and a great part of the Gentry. The Ladies all wore the same kind of dress, being of rich garter blue, trimmed with broad gold fringe; the petticoats being of white satin. The heads of most were decorated with bands of diamonds; and many of the Ladies were

at their bosoms medallions of the King. The Gentlemen, except a few naval and military characters, were dressed in the Royal uniform.

About eight o'clock the Concert began, which was performed by the Queen's private band, assisted by that of the Duke of York: the vocal performers were led by Griesbach; and the different pieces were executed in the most masterly manner. The Royal Family appeared, seated in a row, in the front of the whole company; Her Majesty being on the King's right hand, the Princess Augusta on the left, the Duke of Gloucester at one end, and his Son and Daughter at the other. At the conclusion of the first act of the Concert, the King took some refreshment, and in half an hour the second act began. At the conclusion of the Concert, the Supper was ready in St. George's Hall, and His Majesty then retired for the night; for he was ever an early man, even in his time of full health, both as to going to rest, and as to rising in the morning.

The Queen sat at the bottom of the Hall, on a kind of throne-like elevation: the Prince of Wales was on her right hand, the Duke of York on her left, and the rest of the Royal Family at other parts of the same table. The supper was most magnificent. On this occasion, the King had given directions for shewing, publicly and delicately, the high sense he entertained of the important services lately rendered to Himself and his Family, by the great exertions of Mr. Pitt *(s)* and the Lord Chancellor.*(t)* On a piece of tasteful confectionary, in the middle of the supper table, was exhibited the Chatham Arms, with a cipher W. P. and the Keys of the Treasury hanging from them. Under this an ornamented tablet displayed the figures 268, being the number of Members in the House of Commons, who, in the late parliamentary struggle,

voted against robbing the King of any part of his Royal dignity. On the other part of the same group, were displayed the Arms of the Lord Chancellor, with a motto complimentary to his integrity. There was no ball; and the company retired soon after three o'clock. The Queen's Lodge was most tastefully illuminated, and the whole of Windsor was one continued blaze of light.

Her Majesty, however, did not confine the demonstrations of her joy and thankfulness to those in her immediate circle: she wished that even the poor, and the children of the poor, should feel that the King's restoration to health was a public benefit. For this purpose, she ordered new clothing for eighty Sunday-school children of Windsor, who, in consequence, attended the Mayor of the town to church, to hear divine service. They wore in their hats a garter-blue riband, with the words "God save the King" in gold letters; and to each child was given a medal, having the King's Head on one side, and on the other, "Restored to Health, March, 1789." The juvenile party, with many of their friends, were afterwards supplied with refreshments.

The honourable Mrs. Hobart manifested at once her taste, her magnificence, her loyalty, and her joy, by giving a splendid Fête on the King's Recovery; which was distinguished by the performance of a short drama in French, highly complimentary to our lately restored Sovereign, and expressive of the general feeling on the happy occasion. At the conclusion of this little piece, the scene changed, and discovered a beautiful transparency, representing a bust of His Majesty, crowned with laurels, accompanied by emblematical devices and mottos. This was surmounted by the Hobart Arms, with the words belonging to it, "*Loyauté M'oblege.*"

Some of the Ladies and Gentlemen then came in front of the scene, and sang a kind of choral glee, written and composed by Colonel Arabin.

Hark! the mellow flutes resounding,
Sweet our sentiments impart;
Every throbbing breast rebounding,
Speaks the feelings of the heart.

Thus great GEORGE when near expiring,
View'd by angels with delight,
Like the Sun in clouds retiring,
Seem'd to vanish from our sight.

Hark! that shout—The King is living;
Bend the knee, and GOD adore!
Heav'n this choicest blessing giving,
Spreads our joy from shore to shore.

Happy Monarch! who surviving,
Views the future by the past;
Feels this pleasure, e'en in dying,
To be lov'd while time shall last.

A grand supper followed the music, and displayed every thing of rarity and gratification that a most liberal expenditure could provide.

The Merchants of the city of London, who have been distinguished through the whole of this long reign for their loyalty, would not lose the occasion that now presented itself, to make a further manifestation of their feelings; and they announced a grand Gala Assembly, to be given at Merchant Tailors' Hall. Amongst such a body of men, it is easy to conceive that the expense about to be incurred would not obtain a moment's consideration; and the magnificence and profusion of the entertainment were such as might be expected under the guidance of those feelings. The Ladies sat down to supper first, and the Gentlemen afterwards, including the Ambassadors from Foreign Courts, the Ministers of State, and many distin-

guished characters, amounting to eight hundred persons.

The room was hung with white calico, patriotically to encourage a kind of manufacture, which was become a staple commodity of the kingdom; but it was so glazed as to have almost the effect of white satin This was bordered with rich gold fringe, which, being tied up in festoons, and intersected with wreaths of artificial flowers, had a most beautiful appearance. The ribands, that fastened the different festoons of drapery round the room, were all inscribed in gold letters, *God save the King.* This magnificent and tasteful arrangement was lighted by more than three thousand coloured lamps, and by nearly a thousand wax tapers.

As the Court end of London would not submit to be outdone by their commercial brethren, in manifestations of attachment to a Sovereign who was beloved by all his subjects, the Noblemen and Gentlemen, who were accustomed to meet together in an established public society, determined to give a grand entertainment; and they succeeded in borrowing, for that purpose, the whole Theatre of the Opera House, the largest building in the Metropolis. A floor was laid over the extensive area of the stage and the pit, presenting such a space for public festivity as had never been seen before in this country, and perhaps not in the whole world. The effect of the arrangements made on this occasion was completely overpowering; for the time that had been allowed for the purpose was so short, and every thing was so exceedingly more than could have been imagined, that it might almost be said, the Committee of Noblemen, appointed to manage the proceedings, had taken a flight to China, had gained possession of Aladdin's wonderful Lamp, and had perfected this splendid temple of festivity by the interference of Genii.

This building, which had exhibited the pi

ance of an Opera but a few days before, had now not the smallest appearance of having been built or used as a theatre. Twenty-two gilt pillars supported the temporary roof, and gave the form of a long oval to the place: they appeared bound together by scarlet ribands, and looked like the fasces used by the Romans in their public ceremonies. From the centre of the ceiling was suspended, in tasteful sweeps, an immense sheet of pale-blue silk, which gave the whole place the effect of being under an immense tent. From the centre hung a lustre most elegantly formed of cut glass and of gilded ornaments, containing eighty lights; and on the side pillars were fixed forty-four girandoles, containing each a great number of wax tapers.

The partitions of all the lower boxes were taken away, and the space thus left, formed a kind of covered walk round the greater part of the oval, into which the extensive place had been formed. At ten o'clock the company began to assemble; and before twelve, there were more than thirteen hundred persons arrived. Mrs. Siddons had been prevailed on to give her assistance, in expressing the national feeling which the entertainment was to indicate; and, as soon as the place was full, she recited, from the upper end of the area, and with her usual correctness of enunciation and emphasis, a poetical address to the auditory, written for the occasion. A very fine orchestra of musical performers had been provided, but they were all concealed from the visitors, in order that it might seem like enchantment; and the most able and accomplished singers in the country were brought to aid this grand national rejoicing.

A mixed entertainment of music, singing, and recitation, followed; in which Mrs. Siddons, dressed in the character of Britannia, recited a poem, which I regret that I cannot insert here, on account of its length. At the conclusion of the recitation, the

great actress sat down in the attitude of Britannia, till the music was finished; giving a very good idea, by her size, and by the assuming grandeur of her manner, that she was the queen of nations.

A most splendid supper and ball concluded this festivity, which lasted till nine o'clock the next morning; having worn out every sentiment and faculty of the company, by the length of its duration, except the loyalty that produced it.

But I must not omit to notice the entertainment given at Ranelagh to the Queen, by the Marquis del Campo, Ambassador from Spain; which, under the direction of that amiable Spaniard, was tasteful, magnificent, and novel. The immense rotunda of the place was so arranged as to look like a Spanish Camp, having one Royal Tent. To keep up, as much as possible, the idea, the Queen and Princesses were received with salutes, and with military music; and, after a certain time allowed for walking round the parade, a signal was given, at which the curtains of the several tents were drawn up, and presented an hundred and fifty banquets, all provided with the greatest delicacies; and with innumerable pages, in the Spanish livery, to wait upon all. Her Majesty was delighted with this evidence of elegant attention, which was meant to express the sentiments of another nation besides her own; and she was no less gratified with the beautiful display of Fire Works which followed the supper.

I have dwelt upon these circumstances, as expressive of the sentiments of the People on the King's recovery, as demonstrating their conviction, that he was their best friend; and it is delightful to observe, that, whenever the nation has been called on to express its real, and fairly-collected sentiment, it has invariably been correct and noble. I feel exultation, I feel justified, in saying, that so generous and judicious a nation never existed before on the face of the earth.

But the KING, the magnanimous object of these affections and of these feelings, was duly conscious that he had a duty still to perform, which was rendered more and more imperative by the affectionate rejoicings of his People. As a Christian, his daily and hourly thanksgivings had been performed, and that might have sufficed for a private man; but the King felt that the unanimous prayers of a great nation had been instrumental, at length, in suspending the judgments of Omnipotent Power; and he was convinced that the expression of his gratitude should be as public as the benefit. His Majesty, consequently, ordered a general Thanksgiving, and determined to go himself to St. Paul's, the great Cathedral of the Metropolis, on the occasion, in state, and accompanied by the other Members of the Royal Family. His Majesty was, therefore, attended by the Queen, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, the Princesses Augusta and Elizabeth, the Duke of Gloucester and his Son, the Duke of Cumberland, and by the great Officers of State, as well as by the two Houses of Parliament.

The Procession began at eight o'clock in the morning by the House of Commons in their coaches, followed by their Speaker in his state coach: next came the Masters in Chancery; the Judges; and after them the House of Peers, in the order of precedency, as they were marshalled by the Officers of Arms at Westminster, the youngest Baron going first, and the Lord Chancellor closing the Procession.

But here I must interrupt the account of this great public ceremony, to shew the temper of humility and thankfulness with which the Queen went forth on so awful an occasion.

On the day but one before this public celebration took place, the acting Governors of Bethlehem Hos-

by the Minor Canons; which were followed by that truly impressive part of the church service, "We praise thee, O God," &c. After which an Anthem, prepared for the occasion, was sung by the whole Choir, and accompanied by all that were within hearing, to the amount of more than six thousand persons.

The words are from the CXXXIXth Psalm, and the Music by Dr. Crofts.

"O Lord, thou hast searched me out, and known me; thou knowest my down-sitting and mine up-rising; thou understandest my thoughts long before.

"Thou art about my path, and about my bed, and spiest out all my ways.

"For, lo, there is not a word in my tongue, but thou, O Lord, knowest it altogether.

"Whither shall I go then from thy Spirit? or whither shall I go to avoid thy presence?

"If I climb up into heaven, thou art there; if I go down into the deep, thou art there also.

"If I take the wings of the morning, and remain in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there also shall thy hand lead me, and thy right-hand shall hold me."

The Communion Service was read by the Bishops of Lincoln and Bristol; and afterwards a Sermon was preached for the occasion, from the words, "O tarry thou the Lord's leisure; be strong, and he shall comfort thine heart; and put thou thy trust in the Lord."

Divine Service being finished, Their Majesties and the Royal Family returned in the same state to the Queen's House, about half after three o'clock.

It is scarcely possible for the human mind to conceive a situation of greater alarm and difficulty than that of Her Majesty on this momentous day. She knew that the King's piety required this public prostration of his heart and person in the consecrated House of God; she knew that the People whose happiness the King sought in all that he did,

would be soothed and rejoiced by it; and she knew that it would tend to put down the reports, which were then industriously circulated by interested and malignant persons, that the King was not yet recovered: but the Queen knew, on the other hand, the possible effect of a Procession, so long and so awfully imposing; and she further knew, that there would be persons of no mean talent or condition, upon the watch to note down any trifling inadvertency in the King, if such should occur, and to convert it into the basis of important political argument. These inquietudes in the Queen were increased by the very high spirits in which His Majesty appeared on the morning of that day; for at Buckingham House, when the sandwiches were brought in for refreshment, before setting out on the Procession, the King handed them about to the Queen, the Princesses, and the Ladies present, with an alacrity that indicated even more than his accustomed politeness and condescension.

But if it would be difficult to conceive the anxious solicitude of this excellent Lady in the beginning of so great a day, it must be impossible for any one to imagine her joy at the close of it, when all her fears were dissolved in the consciousness that His Majesty had passed through the eventful trial with even more than his usual piety, attention, and dignity.

In the beginning of this solemn ceremony, a circumstance took place of a nature somewhat ludicrous; but as it tends to illustrate individual feeling, I will venture to state it. There was a gallery appropriated to the Members of the House of Commons, close behind where the Ladies of the Queen's Household were stationed, in waiting on Her Majesty. In the front row of the Commons were Mr. Burke and Mr. Sheridan, eagerly watching every motion of the King's person and countenance, that they might catch, if possible, some ground for

insinuating that he was not yet recovered. The fashion at that time was, for ladies to wear their hair long, down their backs, curled at the ends, and thickened with a quantity of powder. One of the Ladies of the Bedchamber, remarkable for the length and thickness of her hair, happened to stand before these two great luminaries of the political Opposition. She was fully aware of their anxious disposition to scrutinize, and was solicitous to prevent its success; she therefore shook her head, as if actuated by some sudden emotion, and totally covered the sallow face of Mr. Burke, and the bright ruby-coloured face of Mr. Sheridan, with her powder. They did not, I believe, think fit afterwards, to state to the House of Commons this obstruction of their views, as a breach of privilege.

This great day of National and Royal Thanksgiving, was terminated with the most splendid Illuminations that London ever displayed; for there having been more time given for preparation, than was possible for the almost spontaneous exhibitions on the day which announced the King's Recovery, those who had taste of their own, or wealth to command the taste and exertion of others, made advantage of it with a spirit of emulative loyalty, that did honour to themselves and to the nation. The cities of London and Westminster, and even the adjacent villages in every direction, presented one great mass of light, called in aid of one common sentiment, though diversified by the fancy or humour of individuals in the mode of expressing it. Palaces, mansions, gaming-houses, private houses, theatres, tradesmen's shops, and even cottages, all shone with some demonstration of affection for the best of Kings. As a specimen of what was done upon this great occasion, I will describe only the illumination of the Bank of England, which was arranged and executed by a distinguished member of the Royal Academy.

The design was classical; and the composition and execution of the subject so very superior, that every spectator lamented the occasion for shewing it should be so entirely temporary. It consisted, principally, of a grand transparent Picture, about seventeen feet high, raised about fifteen feet from the ground:—

Britannia, bearing a staff and cap of liberty, appeared seated on a triumphal car, like those anciently used by the Romans in their public triumphs, and drawn by four grey horses abreast: somewhat above, as if floating in the air, was Hygeia, her arm bound with a serpent, implying Esculapian skill, and she appeared to direct the course of the horses. Two cherubs, characterised as Peace and Plenty, were hovering over Britannia. The most distinguished figure of those in the foreground, was a grand personification of the City of London, with the mural crown on her head, and bearing in her hands the Civic Sword and the Charter: her under dress was a gold tissue, and the mantle of garter-blue velvet. On one side of this august personage stood the Genius of Commerce, bearing the City Arms; and on the other side, two elegant figures, carrying cornucopias, one of fruits and the other of treasure. A Lion, the representative of kingly power, stood near the wheels of the car; and, surmounting the whole, appeared a medallion of His Majesty, supported by angels.

This grand Picture formed the centre of the illumination; but every other part of the building was made splendid with innumerable coloured lamps in various devices.

On accompanying His Majesty to the Thanksgiving, the Queen, the Princesses, and near a hundred Ladies of the Court, wore at their bosoms a commemorative medal of pure gold, beautifully emblazoned with blue, white, and ruby-coloured

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

carried by four Ladies of Honour, preceded by the State Officers,) through the grand State Apartments into the White Hall, where a canopy was erected of crimson velvet, with a crimson velvet sofa for the marriage ceremony.

When the Duke and the Princess had placed themselves under the canopy before the sofa, and the Royal Family were standing round them, one of the Counsellors of the Consistory made an address in the German language; after which, rings being exchanged, and the youthful Pair kneeling on the sofa, they were married according to the rites of the Reformed Church. The religious ceremony concluded with a prayer, a discharge of artillery, and a solemn benediction.

An evening Party, and afterwards a grand Supper, were given in the Palace, to honour the occasion; after which the Bride and Bridegroom were attended to their apartment by the reigning Queen and the Queen Dowager. They remained some days at Berlin, and then proceeded through Hanover and Brussels to England, which they reached in safety, and were received at the Duke's House by the Prince of Wales, who had arrived but just before for the purpose. After the Duchess had received the congratulations of the Prince and of the Duke of Clarence, (the title recently conferred on His Majesty's third Son) she withdrew, finding herself greatly indisposed, and went to rest.

On the Wednesday following that of their arrival, the ceremony of Re-marriage in this country, between the Duke and Duchess of York, took place, according to a clause in the Royal Marriage Act, which says, "That His Majesty's consent shall not only pass the Great Seal, but shall also be set out in the Licence and Register of Marriage." The King's consent did pass the Great Seal previously to the solemnization at Berlin; but the latter direction of the statute could be complied with in this coun-

try only: for our Archbishop could not have granted a licence to marry at Berlin, having no jurisdiction there; nor can a marriage be registered but in the parish where it is performed.

At seven o'clock, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Bishop of London, attended at the Queen's House, for the purpose of solemnizing this Re-marriage; where the Duke and Duchess of York, the Prince of Wales, and the Duke of Clarence, arrived soon after, and were conducted into Her Majesty's Drawing-Room. At nine o'clock, the Archbishop and the Lord Chancellor having intimated that they were ready, a Procession was formed, which attended the Royal Pair into the Great Saloon, and the ceremony immediately took place. The certificate of the Marriage was then signed by Their Majesties, by the Prince of Wales, by the Duke of Clarence, and lastly by the Lord Chancellor.

The Duchess of York was received and noticed with affectionate kindness by the Queen, and appeared to be regarded with admiration by such part of the people as had the opportunity of seeing her. Her countenance seemed to express the most amiable dispositions, and her delicate miniature-like figure exhibited an irresistible prettiness. Many British ladies, who were leaders of fashion, gave the Duchess's name to particular colours and parts of dress, and seemed desirous of imitating her in every thing: but there was one point, in which they could not even appear to have accomplished their object, without much expense of comfortable feeling; for Her Royal Highness's feet were so peculiarly small, that the shoes she commonly wore did not measure more than four inches and a half in length.

As early as might be convenient after [redacted] riage, the Queen held a grand Drawing the purpose of introducing the Duchess the Nobility and Gentry of the coun

attended by the Duke her Husband, and escorted by a party of Life Guards. Upon Her Royal Highness's arrival at St. James's, she went first to Her Majesty's apartments, who was waiting to receive her. After paying her obedience to the Queen, Her Royal Highness returned through the Queen's Guard-chamber, and went into the Drawing-Room, where, after paying her respects to His Majesty, and graciously condescending to satisfy the curiosity of the company present, by gracefully exhibiting her person, in the course of half an hour withdrew from the Drawing-Room, and, attended by Lady Ann Fitzroy, returned to York House.

Probably the British Court never beheld a more becoming and splendid dress, than was exhibited by Her Royal Highness on this occasion. The shape and train were composed of a white tissue, spotted very richly with silver, and trimmed with broad silver fringes; a fall of the same half way down the arm, trimmed with silver fringe; the sleeve of white satin; at the top a very large bow of brilliants, which nearly covered the stomacher. The petticoat was of white satin, covered with crape, richly spotted and sprigged with silver, tied in festoons, with silver flowers, and trimmed and decorated with infinite taste with silver fringes, &c. &c. The Duchess's hair was dressed high, and ornamented in a very rich style; it was decorated with white feathers and gauze, crape and blond; on the left side she wore a very large double sprig of brilliants, of uncommon lustre; a bandeau of brilliants encircled the right part of her head-dress, to which were added the three diamond pins, set to resemble stars, which were presented to Her Royal Highness by the King; she also wore the diamond ear-rings presented to Her by His Majesty, and the necklace which was a present from the Queen; besides a number of trinkets, richly ornamented with bril-

liants of uncommon size and lustre: the whole forming a most magnificent appearance.

The Duke of York was in his regimentals, and wore a great number of diamonds. But what appeared to be the most costly, was a sabre, which was a present to His Royal Highness from the King of Prussia, and which was considered to be of great value. The same day the Princess Sophia, Their Majesties' fifth Daughter, was at the Drawing-Room for the first time.

Thus, then, the King and Queen of England appeared to have, in prospect, every thing that could promise felicity. Their minds were endowed by that spirit which leads to cheerfulness; they were both in perfect health; they had as fine a family in personal and constitutional qualities as ever the sun shone upon; and one Member of that Family was now married, with the fair prospect of perpetuating the Royal Line: but man is not born for continued happiness in his first transient state of existence. Sometimes the day dawns upon him with dazzling radiance; and, even before his noon, thick clouds overshadow, and storms pour upon his head: sometimes he enters the world with inauspicious prospects, and his maturity, or his decline, are marked by sunny gleams—but *when* these shall come, or whether they shall come at all, the wisest of human beings cannot certainly declare.

The continent of Europe was now arrived at a crisis of the most portentous nature; it shook the civilized world to its foundations; and went nigh to bury the invaluable privileges of Englishmen in the wide-spread ruin of nations. The characters of the King and Queen, the talent and firmness of the King's Ministers, alone prevented the terrible summation, which some in this country and [redacted] as almost inevitable.

I should have wished to avoid this ject, but that it is connected, in an i

with the illustrious characters which I am engaged to unfold: I trust I shall treat it with that seriousness which belongs to the occasion.

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is *no* God;" and one of our witty Divines has added to it, by way of comment, "And who, but a fool, would have said so?" Yet it was the melancholy characterestic of the world, (at the time to which I refer,) to exhibit numerous societies of learned men and philosophers, labouring incessantly, and with all the powers of their understanding and their acquirements, to persuade a whole nation to believe, what none but a fool would have said. Unhappily for man, they succeeded but too well in this their diabolical undertaking. And what was the consequence? Exactly that which every rational being would predict, when a whole people deny the existence and government of Him who made them. This nation of infidels, thus freed from all religious, and consequently from all moral restraint, first deluged the land that gave them birth with the blood of their parents, their wives, their sons, and their daughters; and then poured forth their infuriated myriads into other countries, destroying the soul with their pestiferous breath, and the body with their merciless weapons. They continued so long unchecked in their career of devastation and crime, that many of them, who but doubted before, began almost to think, either that there was no God, or that peradventure he was gone a long journey. They had been taught to deride and deny the only source from which they could have learnt, surely, that there is indeed an overruling God, whose Providence never sleepeth, who suffers bad men to prevail for a time, that other bad men may be punished. At length this all-seeing Omnipotence rolled the thunders of his judgments on the heads of those infidel hordes of murdering profaners, and, employing the powers of Britain, drove them back

within their boundaries, to fatten their native land with the vital streams of their justly forfeited existence.

I regret most deeply that it is necessary to speak more in detail on this subject, in order to make it intelligible to all.—The French nation, frivolous, fanciful, and depraved, having groaned for some years under the weight of a great national debt, incurred by the thoughtless ambition of a profligate Court and a profligate Nobility, panted to relieve themselves from the burden, and listened eagerly to those who tried to persuade them that the remedy was easy, and who led them through innumerable bloody massacres, and as many remorseless conflagrations, to the hope that they were about to possess a constitutional government like that of England. Vain, indeed, was the hope; and such it was well known to be, by the traitors who put it forth. A constitution like that under which we have the happiness to live, must grow out of the habits, the sentiments, the virtues of the People; it rises by degrees out of the experience of ages, and fills the mind with a veneration for its remote origin. The French were not suited for the establishment of such a system, because they had nothing of that moral feeling which binds man in subjection to legal institutions; the French were not suited for the establishment of such a system of government, because it must be founded in reason, soberness, and piety, and they had long banished those qualities from their country. They tried, however, the experiment, which failed immediately; they cut off the head of the best-hearted King they ever had; they substituted a House of Assembly, which decreed that *there is no God;* and having summarily declared inveterate hostility against all Kings, sent out a band of hired assassins throughout Europe to put all Sovereigns to death that might within their reach.

These regenerated French, as they were called, invaded and despoiled, as a first step, all their immediate neighbours, and thus England was called upon to defend one of her allies; but the great motive which influenced this country to enter into vigorous hostilities against France, was, I am convinced, a wise determination to keep as far as possible from the shores of Britain, the deadly poison of French principles. But while the insensate rulers of that infidel people, professed and carried on against all other nations a warfare which they declared should allow no quarter, and were raising private daggers against the bosoms of Royalty, they were employing another instrument almost as deadly, I mean the public press, which, rightly conducted, must be the blessing of mankind. They had a printing-office established in Paris for every nation they wished to overthrow; where a kind of newspaper was produced in the language of the devoted country, praising the people, and vilifying the government and the Sovereign. These were promptly circulated by industrious emissaries; they were conducted in the fabrication by profligate refugees whom those countries had cast forth, but they were always under the inspection of a French committee. One fact will prove and illustrate this:—

A native of England published a most atrocious volume, in which there was not one word of truth, entitled, "Crimes of Cabinets;" and then, in fear of the justice that was ready to fall upon him, fled for refuge to republican France, where the malignity of his attacks upon Royalty procured him the disgraceful eminence of conducting one of the incendiary publications to which I have just referred. In this iniquitous vocation he continued long, fabricating lies against his lawful Sovereign and his Family; but more frequently inserting such paragraphs as were sent to him for the purpose by the French

[redacted] last, became so outrageously [redacted] profligate writer, as he confesses [redacted] works, refused further compliance; and in consequence, dismissed from his [redacted] employment.

[redacted] beginning, therefore, of the Gallic [redacted] the most calumnious falsehoods were [redacted] upon the Royal Family of this country, and [redacted] repeated daily by such English newspapers [redacted] could be hired for the purpose; as it was a principle with those who conducted so much of the Jacobinican scheme, that a lie, often repeated, will at last gain credit with some, by the steadiness with which it is continually re-asserted. The King, (the mildest of all Sovereigns,) was represented as an arbitrary despot; the Queen was incessantly charged with being uncharitable, and as a niggard; and both, as having sent large sums to banks in Venice, Genoa, and other foreign places, that their subjects might have no means of knowing how rich they were.—Their Majesties would never allow a word to be answered to these wicked inventions, because they trusted, that after a knowledge of them for more than thirty years, the great mass of the people would do them justice. But the climax of atrocity of these literary assassins was soon attained; for, emboldened by impunity, they raised their envenomed pens against the characters of the Princesses, though every one who had lived near those illustrious Ladies well knew, that they were not only the most amiable, but also the most delicate and chaste women that the sex in this or any other country could produce.

This was the origin of misrepresentations of the Queen's character; and though the hydra of revolution has been long swept away by unrelenting despotism, the poison she scattered about so freely has remained in some bosoms, and polluted some memoirs. At the conclusion of this work I shall

be able to attack again these base and unmanly assertions with a blaze of dazzling and irresistible evidence. This was all these traitors could do against Her Majesty, because her person was generally out of their reach: but their attacks upon the King were not confined to aspersions. Republican fury had been excited by incendiary writers to such a degree, that the few miscreants who believed they knew how to manage a mob, laid plans for accomplishing the King's destruction. The first step in this treasonable proceeding was, to bring together a great concourse of the common people on the day before the King's going to open the Parliament.

In this the contrivers fully succeeded; occupying a large field near the northern side of the Metropolis, in which, from a kind of stage erected for the purpose, the people were addressed in the most violent and inflammatory language, in order to pass certain violent Resolutions, which were adopted by acclamation. In the mean time, hired agents of the conspirators were actively employed in giving or selling, amongst the crowd, the most incendiary and treasonable pamphlets; one of which was entitled, "King-killing no murder."

The result was precisely such as might have been expected from such preparation; for, on the next day, when going to perform one of the most sacred duties of his high office, the good King was insulted, hooted at, and pelted—all which he bore with the most dignified composure; for the King was a brave, as well as a good man. But the ruffians had not yet achieved sufficient to merit the favour of their employers; and, in consequence, when His Majesty had returned to St. James's Palace from the House of Lords, and was proceeding thence, unattended, in his private chariot to the Queen's House, he was stopped by the mob, who had waited for this opportunity: the carriage door was forced open, and some of the most daring were beginning to drag the King

put into the road; when, providentially, three of the Horse Guards, who had lingered in the Park, heard the tumult, and rode up in time to save the valuable life of their Sovereign. While this attempt was making in St. James's Park, another party of ruffians followed the King's State Carriage to the Mews, where it was to be put up, endeavouring, with stones and other instruments, to demolish it; till one, who appeared to be a leader on the occasion, cried out, with a terrible oath, "What signifies doing this, *when* HE *is not in it!*" I state these facts, as things that I saw and heard.

But the attempts to assassinate the King did not end with this disappointment: another was made not long after, some particulars of which I must state, because they throw such a blaze of light on His Majesty's character.

The Royal Family had appointed one evening to go to the Theatre, to see a popular play, and the circumstance is always known before-hand: the place, as usual, was exceedingly crowded. The King was but just entered into his box, and was bowing to the applause of the audience, when a pistol was discharged at him, the ball of which missed his head, and went into the roof of the box. His Majesty looked round, without the least appearance of alarm; and when Lord Chesterfield asked, "Sir, shall I order back the carriage?" the King answered, "No; if I were now to withdraw, many lives would be lost—only desire the Queen not to come into the box, till I see if any more shots are intended." The Princess Sophia had just then fainted away in the Queen's arms, and required maternal assistance, or Her Majesty, I have reason to believe, would have rushed forwards to share the King's danger. The assassin was soon secured by those near him, who had seen the act, and delivered over to the Police. The Royal [illegible] then took their seats, amidst the most [illegible]

plaudits; and the King appeared to enjoy the performance exceedingly.

When this truly great Father of his people retired for the evening, and had just laid his head down upon the pillow, he said, "Charlotte, I am very much fatigued—I think I shall have a better night than the poor man who fired at me this evening." Here we see united, the bravery of a hero with the piety of a Christian. The man who had raised his traitorous arm against the King's life, was afterwards tried, and allowed to plead insanity: but I have reason to believe, that he owed his preservation, like Margaret Nicholson, to the suggestions of His Majesty.

The next few years of British history present nothing but the efforts of a desperate band of bad men, under the name of Patriots, contriving on every occasion to insult the King, and to detach the good sense of Englishmen from a reverence for their national institutions: the writer who shall have occasion hereafter to record, as an honest man, the events of that period, will weep over every line, and will feel his cheeks crimsoned with the best blood of his heart, to find that there should have been even one person, born in Britain, capable of partaking in such deeds. I rejoice that this painful duty does not devolve upon me. I love my King; I love my country; I love all its institutions; and I so glory in the name of Englishman, that I should shrink from the task of stating any thing that might go to fix a stain upon the national character.

I shall proceed, therefore, to occurrences arising out of the immediate circumstances, and feelings, and duties, of the Royal Family.

I have shewn already, that during more than three-and-thirty years, the King and Queen had been practising, without interruption, and upon principle, every virtue that can adorn human nature; and that, till the French revolution assumed a

Highness, did not arrive till an hour afterwards; but whether that Lady had overslept herself, or whether the neglect was intentional, is not known. As soon, however, as she reached Greenwich, the Princess and her Ladyship retired together into an adjoining apartment, where Her Highness's dress was immediately changed, under the superintendence and management of that celebrated lady. It was, before, a muslin gown and blue satin petticoat, with a black beaver hat, surmounted by blue and black feathers: the dress was, now, a white satin gown highly ornamented, with a white satin turban for the head, trimmed with crape and lace, and displaying a large plume of rich ostrich feathers on one side; the whole having been brought down for the purpose in her Ladyship's carriage.

It is scarcely possible to conceive the bustle and confusion occasioned at Greenwich by the arrival of the Princess: the Thames, half a mile wide, was covered with boats and vessels of every kind, full of anxious and applauding spectators; the southern banks of the river, and all the avenues to the Hospital, wherever the least view was possible, were crowded to excess; and, the event happening during Divine Service, the congregation in the Hospital Chapel left their religious duty unfinished, and the clergyman all alone, in order to look at, and to welcome by their cheers, the elected Bride of their Prince. The acclamations from all quarters were unbounded.

A little after two o'clock, Her Serene Highness left the Governor's House in one of the King's coaches, drawn by six horses: in the same carriage were, also, Mrs. Harcourt and Lady Jersey. Another of His Majesty's coaches-and-six went first, containing Mrs. Harvey Aston, Lord [illegible], Lord Clermont, and Colonel Greville. In a third coach, with four horses, were two female [illegible] whom the Princess had brought from [illegible].

being the only foreigners that attended her. The carriage of Her Serene Highness was escorted, on each side, by a party of the Prince's own regiment of Hussars, commanded by Lord Edward Somerset; besides which, the road was lined, at small distances, with parties of the Life Guards, all the way to London. The Procession was followed by a great number of Gentlemen and other persons on horseback, and was received every where with the most lively demonstrations of joy. The Princess could not fail to be deeply impressed with these manifestations of attention and respect to her, of whose virtues they had yet to learn the estimate, but who were already prepared to give her a share in their affections, because she was the Niece of their beloved Sovereign.

Though Westminster Bridge, and all the avenues leading to the Park and the Palace, were excessively crowded, the greatest order was observed, and no accident took place. The Princess kindly kept her carriage windows open, and returned the loud salutations of the immense multitude with a cheerfulness almost amounting to gaiety. At three o'clock, Her Serene Highness reached St. James's Palace, and was ushered into the apartments that had been prepared for her, and which are now appropriated to the use of the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland. After a short rest, the Princess shewed herself at the windows, curtsying continually to the crowds that came to see her; which she did without seeming fatigued, till the Prince arrived from Carlton House.

At a little before five, the Prince and his Bride elect sat down to dinner, which lasted not long; for the People continuing to utter loud huzzas all along that side of the Palace, His Royal Highness came forward repeatedly, and, with his accustomed gracefulness of manner, thanked the people for those marks of their kindness and attention to him, and

entreated them to excuse the Princess from appearing again, as it was likely to give her cold. The good-humoured populace appeared delighted with this condescension, and redoubled their acclamations. However, as the evening advanced, the accession of greater crowds, who wished also to be noticed, became so clamorous to see the Princess, that Her Highness at length put on a mantle of green satin, trimmed and laced with gold in the Hussar style, and coming forwards so as to be well seen, addressed the populace in a very sweet voice:

"Believe me," she said, "I feel very happy and delighted to see the good and brave People of England—the best of nations upon earth."

The Prince afterwards once more spoke to the populace, and was heartily applauded.

A select, but, as it proved, a very crowded Court, was held at St. James's Palace on the Wednesday following, for the purpose of celebrating the Marriage of the Prince of Wales with his German cousin, and it was remarked that his Royal Highness looked uneasy and distressed during the whole performance; and if he had any joy upon the occasion, it was a joy that passed show. The solemnization took place in the Chapel Royal, with all the pomp and splendour that could be given to such an important occasion; the Service being read by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Princess, short in stature, but, like the Royal Family, looked fair, lively, and engaging, even amongst a large assemblage of British beauties.

The Procession from the Palace to the Chapel, and back, was arranged in the following order:

Procession of the Bride.

Drums and Trumpets.
Kettle Drums.
Sergeant-Trumpeter.
Master of the Ceremonies.

Bride's Gentleman Usher between two senior Heralds.
His Majesty's Vice-Chamberlain.
His Majesty's Lord Chamberlain.

THE BRIDE,

In her Nuptial Habit, with a Coronet, and led by His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence,
Her train borne by four unmarried Daughters of Dukes and Earls, namely,
Lady Mary Osborne, Lady Caroline Villers,
Lady Charlotte Spencer, Lady Charlotte Legge;
And Her Highness was attended by the Ladies of her Household.

On entering the Chapel, Her Highness was conducted to the seat prepared for her near the Queen's Chair of State; after which the Master of the Ceremonies, with the Gentleman Usher, retired to places assigned them.

The Bridegroom's Procession

Began in the same order as that of the Bride, and was followed by the Officers of His Royal Highness's Household.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES,
In his Collar of the Order of the Garter,

Supported by two unmarried Dukes, namely,
The Duke of Bedford, The Duke of Roxburgh.

And His Royal Highness having been conducted to his seat in the Chapel, the Lord Chamberlain, the Vice-Chamberlain, and two Heralds, returned to attend His Majesty.

Their Majesties' Procession.

Drums and Trumpets as before.
Knight Marshal.
Pursuivants.
Heralds.
Treasurer of the Household.
Master of the Horse.
Two married Dukes, namely,
Duke of Leeds, Duke of Beaufort.
Lord Steward of the Household.
Provincial King of Arms.

Serjeants at Arms.	Lord Privy Seal.	Serjeants at Arms.
	Archbishop of York.	
	Lord President of the Council.	
	Lord High Chancellors.	

Archbishop of Canterbury.

Gentleman Usher.	Garter principal King of Arms, with his Sceptre.	Gentleman Usher.

The Earl Marshal with his Staff.

The Princes of the Blood Royal, namely,
Prince William.
His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester.
His Royal Highness the Duke of York.
Vice-Chamberlain of the Household.
Sword of State, borne by the Duke of Portland.
Lord Chamberlain of the Household.

HIS MAJESTY,

In the Collar of the Order of the Garter.
Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard.
Captain of the Life Guards, in waiting.
Master of the Robes.
Groom of the Bedchamber.
Vice-Chamberlain to the Queen.
Earl of Moreton, Lord Chamberlain to the Queen.

HER MAJESTY.

The Queen's Master of the Horse.
Their Royal Highnesses,
The Princess Royal,
Princess Augusta Sophia,
Princess Elizabeth,
Princess Mary,
Princess Sophia,
Princess Amelia,
Her Royal Highness the Duchess of York,
Princess Sophia of Gloucester,
Supported severally by their Gentlemen Ushers.
The Ladies of Her Majesty's Bedchamber.
Maids of Honour.
Women of Her Majesty's Bedchamber.

Upon entering the Chapel, the several persons in the Procession were conducted to the places appointed for them. The King and Queen went to their Chairs, raised on a kind of platform; the Bridegroom and the Bride proceeded to their seats; and the rest of the Royal Family took their places on each side. At the conclusion of the Marriage Service, Their Majesties retired to their Chairs of State, under the canopy, where they continued while the anthem was performing: and the Procession was then arranged for returning to the Palace; the Bridegroom then leading the Bride, and being supported by the two married Dukes who had previously attended the King.

In returning, the greater part of those concerned in the Procession filed off into the Privy Chamber; while Their Majesties, with the Prince and Princess,

and the rest of the Royal Family, attended by the Great Officers of State, proceeded into the Levee Chamber, where the Registry of the Marriage was attested with the usual formalities. After this, the whole party proceeded to the Great Council Chamber, where the Great Officers, Nobility, Foreign Ministers, and other persons of distinction, were successively allowed to pay their compliments on the occasion, both to the newly married Pair, and to the King and Queen.

There were many illuminations the same evening in London and Westminster, as signs of rejoicing for an union which it was supposed would make the Prince happy; for, by the elegance and graciousness of his manners and conversation, His Royal Highness had long been rendered very popular; and Englishmen have so much of true domestic feeling, that they cannot for a moment separate the ideas of happiness and marriage, nor can they form to their minds the conception of perfect felicity in a single state.

As soon after the celebration of this marriage as might be possible, in the regular operation of cause and effect, a Daughter was born to the Royal Pair, who carried proofs of her legitimacy in every feature, even when an infant, and still more so when grown to the interesting form of a lovely woman. I mention this circumstance purposely, and with pleasure, because the tongue of slander was at that early period spreading rumours to the disadvantage of the Princess of Wales, which were as improbable as they were unfounded and malicious.

Thus, then, it might reasonably appear to the world, that the Prince and his Bride had a very large proportion of human happiness in their power; and I doubt not they would ultimately, if not at first, have been a happy Pair: for the good sense, the accomplishments, the experience, of His Royal Highness, would, no doubt, have succeeded by

degrees in correcting any faults he might find in his Princess; and she, in return, would have regarded him more and more with grateful reverence and affection. Women naturally love men that can instruct and guide them, and delight to lean for support on superior judgments. This would, in all probability, have been the result with the Prince and Princess of Wales, had such circumstances been allowed to act in their regular course. But the Spirit of Mischief was hard at work to destroy these prospects; and some serious cause of disunion between the Prince and his Wife, seems to have arisen soon after their marriage.

In order to understand this subject rightly, it will be necessary to go into details that may appear somewhat too personal; but there is no other way of doing justice to the distinguished individuals in question. The statement is painful, but it is inevitable; and I trust, when it shall have been read, many will then *pity*, where they have hitherto been inclined to *censure*.

I must first, therefore, speak of the Royal Bride.—This Princess came to England with no greater recommendations than her being young, (and therefore likely to continue the Royal Family,) and being of the House of Brunswick. She was in the habit of shewing such gaiety of behaviour, and vivacity of spirits, in her Father's family society, and even in his Court, that it frequently became necessary to confine her for two or three days at a time to her private apartment, in the hope that solitary reflections might induce her to adopt a mode of conduct more suitable to her rank in life, and to the observances of decorum. These restraints had very little effect; and, I am well informed, that in going down a dance, even after she was grown to something like womanhood, it was usual with her former governess to follow close behind her, in order to regulate her conduct; and yet, notwithstanding all

...nce, the deportment of the young Lady was ... unguarded, as to induce the Duke, her ..., sometimes to give her a tap upon the ...lders with his sword.

These circumstances, which were well known in ...land to many persons most concerned, were not ...ly to excite nuptial feelings in one who, by the ...uctions of parasites, that cling like horse-flies to ...uthful Royalty, might have been induced to think ...at the sentiments, the feelings, the devotedness ...f the heart, would necessarily follow where he bestowed his favour, or especially where he condescended to fix his choice. The Prince of Wales had all the refinements of a polished education; his mind was endowed with all that the best instruction could give; he had been long accustomed to the best society, of the best Court, and the best People, in the world: and even in his deviations, it is probable, there had been, at least, an endeavour to make them sentimental. Such a man could be recalled and made happy only by an elegant, accomplished, and sensible Wife; having patience to wait the reward of her unremitted attentions, in the increased affection of her converted Husband.

This was what the friends, the real friends, of the Prince expected; but they must have greatly miscalculated the qualities of his Wife, who had as little of option in the union as the Royal Husband. But let it not be supposed that I undertake to defend the conduct of either party on this occasion: it must be left for others to do—I trust it will never be defensible in this country. If the Prince's mind had been as thoroughly imbued with religious feeling as the mind of his Father was even in his youth, those circumstances which contributed to interrupt this sacred union, would never have been allowed to produce such an effect; the domestic differences in a Royal Family would never have been obtruded on the public notice. "Those whom God hath united,

let no man put asunder;" and let not any hereafter set an example so dangerous to the community, however great his provocations. He will bring upon himself, not only the responsibility of having violated a solemn engagement, but the penalties of the mistakes of all those who may be misled by the influence of his example into a disregard of their duties.

But the Princess of Wales had not a fair chance, in her matrimonial connection, of trying what she could or would do: she shewed, however, her willingness. She understood that her Royal Consort was fond of music, and she immediately set herself to practise, that she might improve herself in it; but her endeavours and her wish to please, were misdirected by a Lady who was allowed admission to the Prince's society, and to the tables where he received or met his friends. Lady ****, at this time a grandmother of several children, was still so beautiful, that, combining the powers of her beauty with the accomplishments she possessed, which were almost of every kind the most fascinating, enabled her to bewitch any one whom she wished to draw into her pernicious snares. She was a fine musician; she had a high taste for the elegant arts; and she spoke almost every language in Europe with correctness and fluency; so that her powers of enchantment were not confined to the natives of her own country—they were not confined to any age or sex—her influence was universal, if she chose to exert it. The eldest son of General ———, a young man, expectant of a very large fortune, had made proposals of marriage to one of the daughters of this Lady, and the father came to make a morning visit in ———Square, in order to see his daughter-in-law elect, whom he understood to be very beautiful. He was shewn into the drawing-room by the groom of the chambers, where there happened to be none present but the Countess. Her youthful appearance and loveliness, though then in her forty-fifth year,

imposed upon the General, that he believed himself to be addressing his son's future wife, and went away at the end of an hour, perfectly delighted.

How wonderfully and effectually these fascinating powers might have been applied to benefit human kind, may be easily conceived, had they been directed by right principles; but Lady **** was not backward or ashamed to profess the contrary. Being one night in her box at the Opera House, with some other Ladies of rank, and one in particular of hereditary rank and large fortune, the conversation became free and animated, in which the Countess of ——— made a remark that excited great applause in the box. Lady ****, delighted with the idea, exclaimed in a voice to be heard at a distance, "My dear Lady ———, *that* is so delightfully *profligate*, that I envy you the pleasure of having said it."

Such women, so highly gifted, and yet so obstinately perverting the nature of their endowments, are little aware of the serious condemnation they prepare for themselves in a *future* world; but as their views are unquestionably confined to *this* world, one might suppose that something like mere animal motive would induce them to feel for the baneful effects such conduct might have upon their families. This, unhappily, is seldom the case; and it was not so in the instance before me. Lady **** had a large family, most of whom were daughters, lovely and blooming; and as the ——, their father, had but a very small fortune, the character of their other parent greatly obstructed their respectable establishment in life. A Noble Viscount, whom I count amongst my friends, had conceived the most tender affection for Lady ———, one of those daughters. I knew his feelings; I knew his relations wished him married; and I knew he would make an excellent husband: I therefore spoke to him on the subject, urging him to make proposals.

Let all fashionable Ladies who have children, keep this answer continually on their minds.—" I would marry the daughter immediately, but that I should be obliged to marry the mother also." This Nobleman is still single, to his own detriment and that of society.

But to illustrate further the opinion generally entertained of this accomplished, fascinating Lady, I must be allowed to relate an occurrence which took place soon after the Prince of Wales's marriage, in a circle of very high company. The conversation chanced to turn upon a French work, recently published in Paris, and therefore soon much read in England, entitled *Liaisons Dangereuses*, or Dangerous Connexions; in which the author pourtrays a woman of the most depraved and profligate character. The Lady at the head of the company said, she could not conceive that human nature had ever yet exhibited any one so bad. A Gentleman present thought otherwise, declaring he could name one. The question, for amusement, was put to thirteen other Gentlemen in the room, who were of opinion they could also name one as bad as the French author described. It was then proposed, for the purpose of finding how their opinions agreed or differed, that they should write, each, the name of the person in his contemplation on a piece of paper, fold it up, and put it in a glass. This being done, and the glasses well shaken, that the authors might not be known, the contents were poured out, and the papers unfolded; when a striking unanimity of opinion was exhibited, for all the thirteen papers contained the name of the Lady whom I do not think it necessary to name.

This Lady, all-powerful as I have described her, fastened immediately on the Princess of Wales, for the purpose of acquiring and of exerting a powerful influence and control over her mind: the unsuspecting female submitted readily, and I

unfortunately for the country, but more unfortunately for herself, the victim of pernicious persuasion. Oh! that women would but take time to deliberate on the characters of those who offer them friendship; that they would hesitate, and ask advice before they grant their confidence to sudden advances, even of their own sex. If serious illustration were wanting to enforce this admonition, it is to be found in the living example of the Princess of Wales.

Lady **** began her operations by persuading the Princess, that it was the custom for English Ladies to drink wine at table, with every one who asked them; and she had her auxiliaries ready, on all possible occasions, to take advantage of this delusion. The unfortunate consequences were such as might have been expected: the spirits of the Princess, naturally buoyant and strong, were often exhilarated to a degree that rendered her unamiable to those who were not informed of the deep-laid scheme; and particularly so in the eyes of the Prince, whose delicate and accomplished mind abhorred even the most distant semblance of such a vice in any female: in a wife, it must therefore have seemed incomparably more disgusting. The Princess received a most delicate rebuke on this subject one day during dinner at ——— House, which would doubtless have put a check to the improper practice, had it not originated in misrepresentation. In the middle of the service, after Her Royal Highness had repeatedly accepted the challenges of those who wished to engage her to take wine, a large goblet-full was presented to her, in the name of the Prince, by one of the attendants, with a request that she would drink it. She was, naturally, surprised at the magnitude of the favour; yet her desire to appear completely English, made her hesitate about refusing the cup. The Princess then turned to Lord ——— ———, who sat next to her, inquiring if he really thought His Royal Highness seri-

ously intended such a draught for her? This amiable Nobleman was not insensible of what was going on, though he dared not disclose his opinion: he therefore replied to the question, "I have no doubt of it, Madam; but I have a favour to ask of your Royal Highness." This being immediately promised, his Lordship, bowing with the most respectful gallantry, said, "It is, that I may be allowed to drink the wine for you;" which he instantly did: thus saving the devoted Lady, for once, from the otherwise inevitable consequence.—I know not which to admire most on this occasion, the delicacy with which a rebuke was thus meant to be conveyed, under the idea of its being an habitual indiscretion; or the gentlemanly protection that was thus afforded to the Princess.

Another of Lady ****'s proceedings was, to persuade her unsuspecting pupil to eat of various kinds of food, the smell of which she knew to be disagreeable to the Prince; and this she accomplished by asserting, that His Royal Highness was particularly partial to them. She next succeeded in inducing the Princess to adopt a very exposed manner of dressing, which she knew would tend to create further dislike; for her long experience of the world made her truly sensible, that what any one can see at any time, no one will care to look at. This custom of dress became at length habitual, and was the more strikingly indiscreet in the Princess, whose person did credit to the nutritious properties of British provisions. She received one day a very sharp rebuke on this subject from an accomplished Nobleman, who is now abroad in a very high government. "I wonder," said his Lordship, whispering, "that your Royal Highness is not afraid." The Princess asked with great quickness, "And what, you ill-natured ——, would you have me be afraid of?"—"Of catching cold, Madam," was the reply. The Princess then wrapped re

bust a large shawl which hung upon her arm, and then asked, "How do you think I should *look*, if I were to be dressed so?" The Noble Lord bowed respectfully, and again whispered, "Your Royal Highness would *look* modest."

But the most culpable act of Lady ****'s practices against the happiness of the Prince and Princess, is stated to be that of intercepting Her Royal Highness's letters, written to her friends soon after her marriage, for the confidential perusal of her friends abroad; and, having inspected the contents, of detailing them in a way the most injurious: for the Princess had brought to England with her, a fixed and hereditary dislike to one of the Royal Family, which her Mother had not failed to inculcate, and which might naturally be supposed to shew itself in some of the passages of her first correspondence to Germany.

That this dislike did exist in the bosom of the Princess, was manifested, even to the public, at a very early period: for on her first going in state to one of the English theatres, the Queen and her lovely Daughters being on the other side of the house, the looks of haughty dislike that were continually thrown towards Her Majesty's box, were noticed by almost every person present; who all wondered at the circumstance, and wondered the more because none were able to account for it. The Queen, I am fully authorized to say, was, at that time, as guiltless of any offence or provocation towards her Daughter-in-law, as she had been from the first, and ever was, to the Duchess of Brunswick, the King's Sister, whose unfounded aversion to Her Majesty was unhappily carried down to the second generation. Extraordinary as may appear to some this antipathy by descent, the history of human nature furnishes but too many instances of its actual existence, in almost every nation. The Queen could have nothing of this feeling in her bosom, for

her mind was regulated by the pure principles of active Christianity, the only certain means of repressing, of controlling, or of extinguishing, unruly passions.

These differences of sentiment and feeling, in some respects constitutional or habitual, and in others artificially excited by the inveterate contrivance of interested, bad persons, produced at length a separation between the Royal Pair, which excited anxiety throughout the nation; and the Princess of Wales settled herself, after some time, in a house on Black Heath, with a limited establishment, independent of her Consort. Such a situation is a time of trial and of extreme difficulty, even to a female of established principles; because the notices of all her friends, as well as of her enemies, will be upon her, and every part of her conduct will be liable to severe scrutiny. This is the case with persons in general society; but, with the Princess of Wales, the trial was not so great, for the opinion of the public was in her favour, even without knowing any thing of the particular circumstances. Englishmen, as I have stated before, and I am happy to state it again, love their wives; and, however they may choose to differ with them at times, feel a conviction rather in favour of the female, and against themselves. The Princess, therefore, received the tribute of this feeling wherever she went in public, for some time after the separation. What, then, might she not have done, with such advantages? By an exemplary conduct—shunning public notice; restricting herself like a widowed woman; and dispensing the funds allowed for her establishment, in channels of usefulness or of charity—she would have shewn that the prospect of a British Throne had not dazzled her understanding: by a temperate manner of living, she would have shewn to her agonized Husband, that she was not the devoted victim tuary which she had been made to appear by the contrivances of an artful woman.

for the country, alas for the Princess herself, this opportunity, so eminently afforded, did not call forth the exertion expected by every one.

I regret, most deeply, that I am obliged to refer to circumstances which followed in the history of this Lady; but they are necessary to be understood, in order that I may be able to vindicate the character of *my* QUEEN, from aspersions that have been thrown upon her otherwise spotless fame.

The Princess of Wales, inconsiderate before she came to England, deluded after she came to England, chose very improper associates after she separated from that protection which is necessary to give a woman consequence with the world: her society appears to have consisted, generally, of naval and military officers, and their wives, if they had any. The visitors, on these occasions, were not under any of those restraints which rank, even less than Royal, imposes, for the purpose of keeping up proper decorum; and there was consequently a laxity in the Princess's Household that led to unfavourable reports of Her Royal Highness's conduct and manners, which could not fail to engage the attention of her Husband, though living in a state of separation from her. The Prince, therefore, most wisely directed a confidential friend to collect the nature of those reports, together with the probable grounds for them, in order that he might know what steps to take in so difficult a situation. For this purpose, His Royal Highness selected a Nobleman of unquestionable honour, who was loved and revered by every person that knew him.

I wish here to state, that I should feel myself degraded from the character of an honest man, if I did not say distinctly, that there is no cause less than that of adultery that should lead a husband to put his wife from him. I know that the Prince of Wales was forced into his marriage, and that it was not likely to promise him any degree of happiness,

with such a person: but Princes, who are supported by the People, that they may govern for the good of the People, must expect to make sacrifices in return for the support; and that is, in the encouragement of good manners and moral conduct, amongst those who, being subjected to their authority, look up to their example. The Palace at Carlton House was large enough for the purpose of something like separate establishments, without offending the public with a disunion that was not founded in crime.

The inquiries made by the Nobleman to whom I have alluded, produced a conviction of the necessity of laying the result before the King, not only as the head of the Royal Family, but as the head and fountain of legal succession to the Throne. This was accordingly done, in the name of the Prince of Wales; and the King, as Father and as Sovereign, appointed a Commission to inquire into the circumstances. It is thus expressed, as

His Majesty's Commission.

"George R.

"Whereas our right trusty and well beloved Councillor, Thomas Lord Erskine, our Chancellor, has this day laid before us an Abstract of certain written declarations, touching the conduct of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales; we do hereby authorize, empower, and direct the said Thomas Lord Erskine, our Chancellor; our right trusty and well beloved Cousin and Councillor, George John Earl Spencer, one of our Principal Secretaries of State; our right trusty and well beloved Councillor, W. Windham Lord Grenville, First Commissioner of our Treasury; and our right trusty and well beloved Councillor, Edward Lord Ellenborough, our Chief Justice; to hold pleas before Ourself, to inquire into the truth of the same, and to examine, upon oath, such persons as they shall see fit, touching and concerning the same; and to report to us the result of such examination.

"Given at our Castle of Windsor, on the 29th of [illegible] 46th year of our Reign.

It would be painful to me, as it would be distressing to others, to go into the evidences that were brought forwards, under this Royal Commission—the result only is necessary to my objects. After a laboured investigation, pursued with great attention, the Commissioners thus reported to the King:

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

"Your Majesty having been graciously pleased, by an Instrument under Your Majesty's Royal Sign Manual, a Copy of which is annexed to this Report, to authorize, empower, and direct us to inquire into the truth of certain written declarations, touching the conduct of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, an Abstract of which had been laid before Your Majesty; and to examine, upon oath, such persons as we should see fit, touching and concerning the same; and to report to Your Majesty the result of those examinations:—we have, in dutiful obedience to Your Majesty's commands, proceeded to examine the several witnesses, the copies of whose depositions we have hereunto annexed; and in further execution of the said commands, we now most respectfully submit to Your Majesty, the Report of the examinations as they have appeared to us. But we beg leave, at the same time, humbly to refer Your Majesty, for more complete information, to the Examinations themselves, in order to correct any error of judgment into which we may unintentionally have fallen, with respect to any part of this business. On a reference to the above-mentioned Declarations, as the necessary foundation of our proceedings, we found that they consisted in certain statements which had been laid before His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, respecting the conduct of the Princess of Wales; that these statements not only imputed to Her Royal Highness, great impropriety and indecency of behaviour, but expressly asserted, partly on the ground of alleged declarations from the Princess's own mouth, and partly on the personal observation of the informants, the following most important facts, viz.—That Her Royal Highness had been pregnant in the year 1802, in consequence of an illicit intercourse, and that she had the same year been delivered of a male child, which child had, ever since that period, been brought up by Her Royal Highness, in her own house, and under her immediate inspection.

"These allegations thus made, had, as we found, been followed by declarations of other persons, who had not indeed spoken to the important facts of pregnancy, or the delivery of

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Her Royal Highness, but had stated other circumstances, in themselves extremely suspicious, and still more so when connected with the assertions already mentioned. In the painful situation in which His Royal Highness was placed by these communications, we learnt that His Royal Highness had adopted the only course, which could in our judgment be followed with propriety; when informations such as these had been confidently alleged, and particularly detailed, and had been supported in some degree by collateral evidence, applying to other points of the same nature, (although going to far less extent,) one line only could be pursued. Every sentiment of duty to Your Majesty, and of concern for the public welfare, required that these particulars should not be withheld from Your Majesty, to whom more particularly belonged the cognizance of a matter of state, so nearly touching the honour of Your Majesty, and *by possibility affecting the Succession of Your Majesty's Crown.*

"Your Majesty has been pleased, on your part, to view the subject in the same light. Considering it as a matter which, in every respect, demanded the most immediate investigation, Your Majesty had thought fit to commit into our hands the duty of ascertaining, in the first instance, what degree of credit was due to the informations, and thereby enabling Your Majesty to decide what further conduct to adopt concerning them. On this review, therefore, of the matters thus alleged, and of the course hitherto pursued upon them, we deemed it proper, in the first place, to examine those persons in whose declarations the occasion for this inquiry originated; because, if they, on being examined on oath, had varied or retracted their assertions, all necessity of further investigation might possibly have been precluded. We accordingly first examined on oath the principal informants, Sir John Douglas and Charlotte his wife, who both positively swore, the former to his having observed the fact of the pregnancy of Her Royal Highness, and the latter, to all the important particulars contained in her former declaration, as above referred to. Their Examinations are annexed to the Report, and are circumstantial and positive. The most material of those allegations, into the truth of which we have been directed to inquire, being thus far supported by the oath of the parties from whom they had proceeded, we then felt it to be our duty to follow up the Inquiry, by the examination of such other persons as we judged the best able to afford us information as to the facts in question. We thought it [illegible] doubt, that in the course of inquiry, many particu[illegible] be learnt, which would be necessarily conclusive

or falsehood of these declarations; so many persons must have been witnesses to the appearance of an actual existing pregnancy; also many circumstances must have been attendant on a real delivery, and difficulties as numerous and insurmountable must have been involved, to account for the infant in question, as the child of another woman, if it had been, in fact, the child of the Princess, that we entertained a full and confident expectation of arriving at complete proof, either in the affirmative or negative, on this part of the subject.

"This expectation was not disappointed. We are happy to declare our perfect conviction, that there is no foundation whatever for supposing that the child, now with the Princess of Wales, is the child of Her Royal Highness, or that she was delivered of any child in 1802; nor has any thing appeared to us which would warrant the belief, that she was pregnant in that year, or at any period within the compass of our inquiries. The identity of the child now with the Princess, its parents, age, the place of its birth, the time and circumstance of its being taken under her Royal Highness's protection, are all established by such a concurrence both of positive and circumstantial evidence, as can, in our judgment, leave no doubt on this part of the subject. The child was, beyond all doubt, born in Brownlow-street Hospital, on the 11th day of July, 1802, of Sophia Austin, and was first brought to the Princess's house in the month of November following. Neither should we be more warranted in expressing any doubt, respecting the alleged pregnancy of the Princess, as stated in the original Declaration, a fact so fully contradicted, and by so many witnesses, to whom, if true, it must by various ways be known, that we cannot think it entitled to the smallest credit. The testimonies, on these two points, are contained in the annexed Depositions and Letters. We have not partially abstracted them in this report, lest by any unintentional omission, we might weaken their effect; but we humbly offer to Your Majesty this our clear and unanimous judgment upon them, formed after full deliberation, and pronounced without hesitation, on the result of the whole inquiry. We do not, however, feel ourselves at liberty, much as we should wish it, to close our report here. Besides the allegation of the pregnancy and delivery of the Princess, those Declarations, into the whole of which Your Majesty has been pleased to command us to inquire and report, contain, as we have already remarked, other particulars respecting Her Royal Highness, such as must, especially considering her exalted rank and station, necessarily give occasion to

very unfavourable interpretations. From the various depositions and proofs annexed to this Report, Your Majesty will perceive that several strong circumstances of this description have been positively sworn to by witnesses, who cannot, in our judgment, be suspected of any unfavourable bias; and whose veracity, in this respect, we have seen no reason to question.

"On the precise bearing and effect of the facts thus appearing, it is not for us to decide; these we submit to Your Majesty's wisdom: but we conceive it to be our duty to report, on this part of the subject, as distinctly as on the former facts; that, as on the one hand, the facts of pregnancy and delivery are to our minds satisfactorily disproved, so, on the other hand, we think that the circumstances to which we now refer, particularly those stated to have passed between Her Royal Highness and Captain Manby, must be credited until they receive some decisive contradiction; and, if true, are entitled to the most serious consideration. We cannot close this report without assuring Your Majesty, that it was on every account our anxious wish, to have executed this delicate trust with as little publicity as the nature of the case would possibly allow; and we entreat Your Majesty's permission to express our full persuasion, that if this wish has been disappointed, the failure is not imputable to any thing unnecessarily said or done by us, all which is most humbly submitted to Your Majesty.

(Signed) ERSKINE.
SPENCER.
July 14, 1806. GRENVILLE.
(A True Copy.)—J. Becket. ELLENBOROUGH."

A Copy of this Report, together with the depositions and declarations of those who had been examined on the subject, was forwarded to the Princess of Wales by the King's order; on which occasion, Her Royal Highness addressed letters to His Majesty, and to the Lord Chancellor, exculpatory of her conduct, which were written with great ability; as her public correspondence was, at that time, managed by Mr. Percival, afterwards the King's First Minister of State. The affair remained in this predicament for more than two months, when the Princess once more addressed His Maj

the subject; urging the importance to her character and her feelings, of an early decision on the Report of the Commissioners. The address concluded thus, by which the object of it will be clearly seen.

"Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to recollect, that an occasion of assembling the Royal Family, and your subjects, in dutiful and happy commemoration of Her Majesty's Birth-day, is now near at hand. If the increased occupations which the approach of Parliament may occasion, or any other cause, should prevent the Commissioners from enabling Your Majesty to communicate your pleasure to me before that time, the world will infallibly conclude, (in their present state of ignorance,) that my answer must have proved unsatisfactory; and that the infamous charges have been thought but too true.

"These considerations, Sire, will I trust, in Your Majesty's gracious opinion, rescue this address from all imputation of impatience. For, your Majesty's sense of honourable feeling will naturally suggest, how utterly impossible it is that I, conscious of my own innocence, and believing that the malice of my enemies had been completely detected, can, without abandoning all regard to my interests, my happiness, and my honour, possibly be contented to perceive the approach of such utter ruin to my character, and yet wait with patience and in silence till it overwhelms me. I therefore take this liberty of throwing myself again at Your Majesty's feet, and entreating and imploring of Your Majesty's goodness and justice, in pity for my miseries, which this delay so severely aggravates, and in justice to my innocence and character, to urge the Commissioners to an early communication of their advice.

"To save Your Majesty and the Commissioners all unnecessary trouble, as well as to obviate all probability of further delay, I have directed a duplicate of this letter to be prepared, and have sent one copy of it through the Lord Chancellor, and another through Colonel Taylor, to Your Majesty.

"I am,
"Sire,
"With every sentiment of gratitude and loyalty,
"Your Majesty's most affectionate
"And dutiful Daughter-in-law,
"Servant, and Subject,
"C. P."

Montague House,
December 8th, 1806.

This application produced, after some days, during which the celebration of the Queen's Birth-day had taken place, a letter from His Majesty, conveyed to the Princess of Wales in the following note from the Lord Chancellor.

"The Lord Chancellor has the honour to present his humble duty to the Princess of Wales, and to transmit to Her Royal Highness the accompanying message from the King; which, Her Royal Highness will observe, he has His Majesty's commands to communicate to Her Royal Highness.

"The Lord Chancellor would have done himself the honour to have waited personally upon Her Royal Highness, and have delivered it himself; but he considered the sending it sealed, as more respectful and acceptable to Her Royal Highness. The Lord Chancellor received the original paper from the King yesterday, and made the copy now sent with his own hand.

"*January 28th*, 1807.

"*To Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.*"

NOTE FROM HIS MAJESTY,

(as inclosed by Lord Erskine to the Princess of Wales.)

"The King, having referred to his confidential servants the proceedings and papers relative to the written declarations which had been before His Majesty, respecting the conduct of the Princess of Wales, has been apprised by them, that, after the fullest consideration of the examinations taken on that subject, and of the observations and affidavits brought forwards by the Princess of Wales's legal advisers, they agree in the opinions submitted to His Majesty in the original Report of the four Lords, by whom His Majesty directed that the matter should in the first instance be inquired into; and that in the present stage of the business, upon a mature and deliberate view of this important subject, in all its parts and bearings, it is their opinion, that the facts of this case do not warrant their advising that any further steps should be taken in the business by His Majesty's Government, or any other proceeding instituted upon it, except such as His Majesty's law servants may, on reference to them, to recommend for the prosecution of Lady Doug

parts of her depositions which may appear to them to be justly liable thereto.

"In this situation His Majesty is advised, that it is no longer necessary for him to decline receiving the Princess into his Royal Presence.

"The King sees, with great satisfaction, the agreement of his confidential servants, in the decided opinion expressed by the four Lords upon the falsehood of the accusations of pregnancy and delivery, brought forwards against the Princess by Lady Douglas.

"On the other matters produced in the course of the Inquiry, the King is advised, that none of the facts or allegations stated in preliminary examinations, carried on in the absence of the parties interested, can be considered as legally, or conclusively, established. But in those examinations, and even in the answer drawn in the name of the Princess by her legal advisers, there have appeared circumstances of conduct on the part of the Princess, which His Majesty never could regard but with serious concern. The elevated rank which the Princess holds in this country, and the relation in which she stands to His Majesty and the Royal Family, must always deeply involve both the interests of the State, and the personal feelings of His Majesty, in the propriety and correctness of her conduct. And His Majesty cannot therefore forbear to express, in the conclusion of the business, his desire and expectation, that such a conduct may in future be observed by the Princess, as may fully justify those marks of paternal regard and affection, which the King always wishes to shew to every Branch of his Royal Family.

"His Majesty has directed that this message should be transmitted to the Princess of Wales, by his Lord Chancellor; and that copies of the proceedings which had taken place on the subject, should also be communicated to his dearly beloved Son, the Prince of Wales."

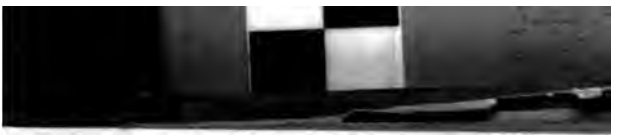
The Princess, conceiving from this communication that all obstruction to her being received as before in the Royal Family was now removed, immediately addressed the King for that purpose, soliciting leave to attend him at Windsor on the following Monday. This was wisely intended, as the visit, being made there, would have involved the necessity of her being received by the Queen also: and that circumstance was of the highest importance to the Princess; for the Queen's character stood so

high in the public estimation for perfect correctness, that whomsoever she thought proper to countenance was deemed worthy of admission into all other societies. But this was a point which Her Majesty could not concede, unless by deviating from the great principle which she had early established, and which had proved so salutary in making the English Court the most select, as well as the most brilliant, in Europe. I have stated this principle before, and there is, consequently, no necessity for repeating it here. Some inconsiderate persons have said, upon this subject, that the Queen might have relaxed from the rigid observance of her principle with one of the Royal Family; but with those who think seriously, the very circumstance of relationship would carry the argument on the other side. The Queen set, in herself, the bright example of every thing that was correct, and she was bound to exact the same from the females of her Family; for one exception, had it been allowed, would have led to another; and if indulgences were refused to the noble ladies of the kingdom, which had been granted to relations, a charge of partiality would have been justly made. However severe, therefore, it might appear, Her Majesty was bound to decline receiving the Princess of Wales; who, though acquitted of criminality, was not exempted from the charge of indiscretion.

The King, fully aware of the predicament in which it was intended to place his Royal Consort, by the proposal of the Princess of Wales to go to him at Windsor, replied immediately to Her Royal Highness's letter, with a degree of wisdom and correctness which shewed him fully aware of the part it was his duty to act in this difficult conjuncture.

"*Windsor Castle, January 29th, 1807.*

"The King has this moment received the Princess of Wales's letter, in which she intimates her intention to Windsor on Monday next; and His Majesty, [illegible]



to put the Princess to the inconvenience of coming to this place so immediately after her illness, hastens to acquaint her, that he shall prefer to receive her in London, upon a day subsequent to the ensuing week, which will also better suit His Majesty, and of which he will not fail to apprise the Princess.

(Signed) "GEORGE R."

"*To the Princess of Wales.*"

Before, however, this judicious and kind determination of the King could be carried into effect, circumstances occurred which made it necessary for His Majesty to write again to the Princess of Wales, in order to postpone the intended interview.

"*Windsor Castle, February 10th,* 1807.

"As the Princess of Wales may have been led to expect, from the King's letter to her, that he would fix an early day for seeing her, His Majesty thinks it right to acquaint her, that the Prince of Wales, upon receiving the several documents which the King directed his Cabinet to transmit to him, made a formal communication to him, of his intention to put them into the hands of his lawyers; accompanied by a request that His Majesty would suspend any further steps in the business, until the Prince of Wales should be enabled to submit to him the statement which he proposed to make. The King, therefore, considers it incumbent on him to defer naming a day to see the Princess of Wales, until the further result of the Prince's intention shall have been made known to him,

(Signed) "GEORGE R."

"*To the Princess of Wales.*"

Immediately after this last note, the Princess again addressed His Majesty, in a long expostulatory letter, stating her conviction, that when the Royal Commissioners had given their judgment, and when that judgment had been approved by the confidential servants of the Crown, and also by the King himself, all further proceedings ought to have ceased; and she appealed on this ground to His

Majesty's wisdom, to his conscience, and to his benevolence. The Princess then proceeded to require that she should be admitted, without delay, to the Royal Presence, and to her former intercourse with the Royal Family; stating, and repeating, that unless these points were conceded within a week, she should feel herself bound to publish the whole of the transaction, together with the correspondence that had taken place on the occasion.

But the motives which induced the King's conduct having been duly considered in the beginning, in that conduct, however painful to his benevolent mind, he found it necessary to persevere. It was, therefore, not likely that threats would extort from His Majesty, that which could not be obtained from his kindness: he had an extraordinary degree of firmness on every occasion when his determinations were once taken, though they were never taken suddenly or rashly. The last address of the Princess of Wales, consequently, remained unanswered; and the threatened publication came forth to a certain portion of the British world, appended to a long and ingenious defence of Her Royal Highness's conduct, from the masterly pen of Mr. Perceval.

The details thus published were, many of them, most disgustingly coarse, and ought never to have appeared in print; but the criminal part of the accusation, as stated in the depositions of Sir John and Lady Douglas, (that the boy who went by the name of William Austin, was really the Princess's son,) was disbelieved by the four Lords Commissioners, as shewn in their Report. But there is one inference to be drawn from this circumstance, that will not fail to occur to every mind—that if Sir John and Lady Douglas were persons not to be believed when upon their oath, they were, most obviously, very improper persons to be made the intimate associates of a Princess of Wa
living in a state of separation from her

and having the eyes and attention of the whole nation fixed anxiously upon her.

No public proceeding took place afterwards on this subject, therefore it seems the Prince of Wales's lawyers did not advise it; and the real, the warm friends of the Royal Family, began to entertain hopes of seeing the Prince and his Consort happily re-united, which a retired and exemplary conduct in the Princess would have tended greatly to promote; but from a kind of infatuation which is perfectly unaccountable, she continued to retain in her house the boy who had given occasion for so serious a charge against her. He received from Her Royal Highness the kind protection of a parent, and was brought up with the treatment and education of a gentleman.

The breach between the Prince and Princess of Wales was increased, and the probability of their re-union diminished, when that calamitous visitation came upon His Majesty which placed the reins of government in the hands of His Royal Highness; for the Princess was led, inconsiderately, to connect herself with those who held a perpetual hostility to the Ministers of State, and who, therefore, felt it their duty to embarrass the public measures of the Prince by every means in their power. These gentlemen repeatedly brought the situation and interests of the Princess of Wales before Parliament, with her concurrence and sanction, and thus produced, in all probability, a degree of exasperation which had not existed before. These discussions terminated, after much altercation, in an increased allowance of five-and-thirty thousand pounds a year to the Princess; who went abroad almost immediately after, taking William Austin with her, who has been, ever since, receiving a princely education under the superintendence of a distinguished English clergyman, and is called the Prince by his attendants, as well as by the people throughout that part of

Italy where he has resided with his Royal Patroness. There is a sort of perseverance in this, which is unadvisable and injudicious to a degree, that has not failed to decrease the number of those who wished to think favourably of the Princess of Wales.

The line of conduct which the Queen felt herself bound to take in the early part of these transactions, by declining to receive the Princess, gave occasion for accusations of severity and injustice to Her Majesty's enemies; for even this incomparable Lady, pre-eminently distinguished as she justly was, more by her virtues than by her high station, has latterly had her enemies and slanderers. They insinuated that, while the Royal Presence was refused to the Princess for mere indiscretions, the Queen admitted Lady **** to her Court, who had been so actively instrumental in misleading the judgment of the youthful Bride, after her arrival in England; and some of the most malignant even dared to insinuate, by way of inference, that Her Majesty connived at the practice. But to refute the whole of this, I have only to refer once more to the rule which the Queen had established in her own mind, for regulating the admission of ladies to her public assemblies. The Queen justly held, that every married man is the proper judge of his own and of his wife's honour; and that as long as a husband continues to live with his wife, and to afford her the benefit of his countenance and protection, she may be received in company, if there had been no blemish in her conduct before marriage. Any other principle than this would have been difficult, and almost impracticable, and it would have had a kind of inquisitorial tendency. If Ladies were to have been admitted or refused at Court, according to the estimate which others might choose to give in of their virtues or their defects, the gossipings of slander and of misrepresentation would

been set actively to work, and the Royal ear would have been little more than a receptacle for the idle rumours of the town. In establishing a great and distinguishing line for so difficult a purpose, it is no impeachment of its propriety, that it might appear to press hard in one or two cases; when, on the other hand, it appears, that in more than half a century only one infraction of the line has taken place, which was entirely effected by misrepresentation, as I have shewn already. Queen Charlotte's Court was, therefore, (I cannot omit to repeat,) the most correct, exemplary, and best-selected society, that has at any time shone upon the world.

There is still one point more, in which the character of my Royal Patroness has been assailed, even without the smallest foundation; and in order to do Her Majesty that justice for which the Memoir was written, I must return to the infant Daughter of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

This lovely Bud from the doubly-interwoven Branches of the Tree of Brunswick, was put forth in the January of 1796, and soon displayed signs of animation, vigour, decision, and susceptibility, most gratifying to those who devoted themselves to her service. The young Princess was named Charlotte Augusta, after her two grandmothers, and she continued long as a resident with the Princess of Wales after the lamentable separation of the Royal Pair. At an early period, however, a separate establishment was judged adviseable for the young Lady, to which, perhaps, her having been made the companion of the little William Austin, might have contributed: and under the successive tuition of Lady Elgin, Lady de Clifford, and the Duchess of Leeds, she made rapid advances in all those branches of education which she chose to acquire.

This Princess naturally attracted the attentions of the British people; for the Prince, her Father, seemed little likely to have other progeny; the

Duke of York was still without children; and the other Sons of the King and Queen were remaining unmarried: the Princess Charlotte of Wales was, therefore, considered as the probable successor to the Crown of these great and powerful kingdoms. As her character unfolded, she became more and more interesting to the nation; for she appeared to be truly British in all her feelings and manners: she was prompt, free, open, generous; and, while she knew well how to sustain the dignity of her high station, she shewed an uncommon degree of frankness with those in whom she found she could properly place confidence.

It is not my object to give a history of the short but interesting life of this Princess—the public have been liberally supplied with such accounts—I shall refer only to those circumstances which appear to have been particularly connected with the Queen's name. The Princess Charlotte of Wales lived long enough to excite the liveliest hopes in the nation; and died so soon, and under such circumstances, as to plunge the people in deep, unanimous mourning.

As this young Lady grew up towards womanhood, she became so lovely, that she must have been an object of desire to any one who dared raise his eyes and his wishes to a Princess of England, over whose head the Crown seemed to be suspended at no great distance; and the whole of the Royal Families of Europe seemed scarcely to furnish an individual to match this distinguished Princess. The King, the Queen, and the Prince, were solicitous for the marriage of the young Lady; but with a disposition rather natural and rational, than Royal, she professed a dislike to enter into sacred engagements with any one who might not be entitled to her heart when he received her hand.

Royal Personages, I have stated before, are compelled to sacrifice their best natural affections

the policy of the State, in this country especially; and it is a penalty upon their situation, for which all the splendours of rank are no compensation. But the Princess had no consideration for this kind of State necessity; and she withstood, as long as she could, the attempts that were made to abridge her time of celibacy. The Prince of Orange, Son to the now reigning King of the Netherlands, was selected as a worthy consort for the Princess Charlotte; and if amiable qualities had been all that the occasion required to render him acceptable, no Prince could have been chosen more suitable. The Princess acquiesced in the proceeding, while her heart, not otherwise engaged, dissented; and the Prince of Orange, yielding to State considerations, submitted to the prospect of an union, which, I know from his confidential friends, was not desirable to his heart.

But while this negociation was carrying on, the Duchess of Oldenburgh, Sister to the Emperor of Russia, came to England, in the quality of a travelling visitor, as it was stated, but in fact for the purpose of promoting that great system of policy, which is now advancing, with rapid strides, to make Russia the greatest nation in the world, and the supreme arbiter of the destinies of Europe. If the Princess Charlotte of Wales had married the Prince of Orange, and, in consequence, the great Powers of Great Britain and Holland had come, as must have been the case, under the control of one Sovereign, Russia might have been restricted, for a time at least, in advancing that great empire which she is destined to establish over Europe and Asia.

One of the objects of the Duchess of Oldenburgh, was therefore, to prevent the marriage of the Prince of Orange with the probable Heir to the English Throne. Of this I was satisfactorily convinced, by the conversation I had with Prince Gagarin at the Hotel of the Duchess, while in

London; and the subsequent marriage of the Prince of Orange to a Daughter of the Czar of Russia, confirms this opinion.

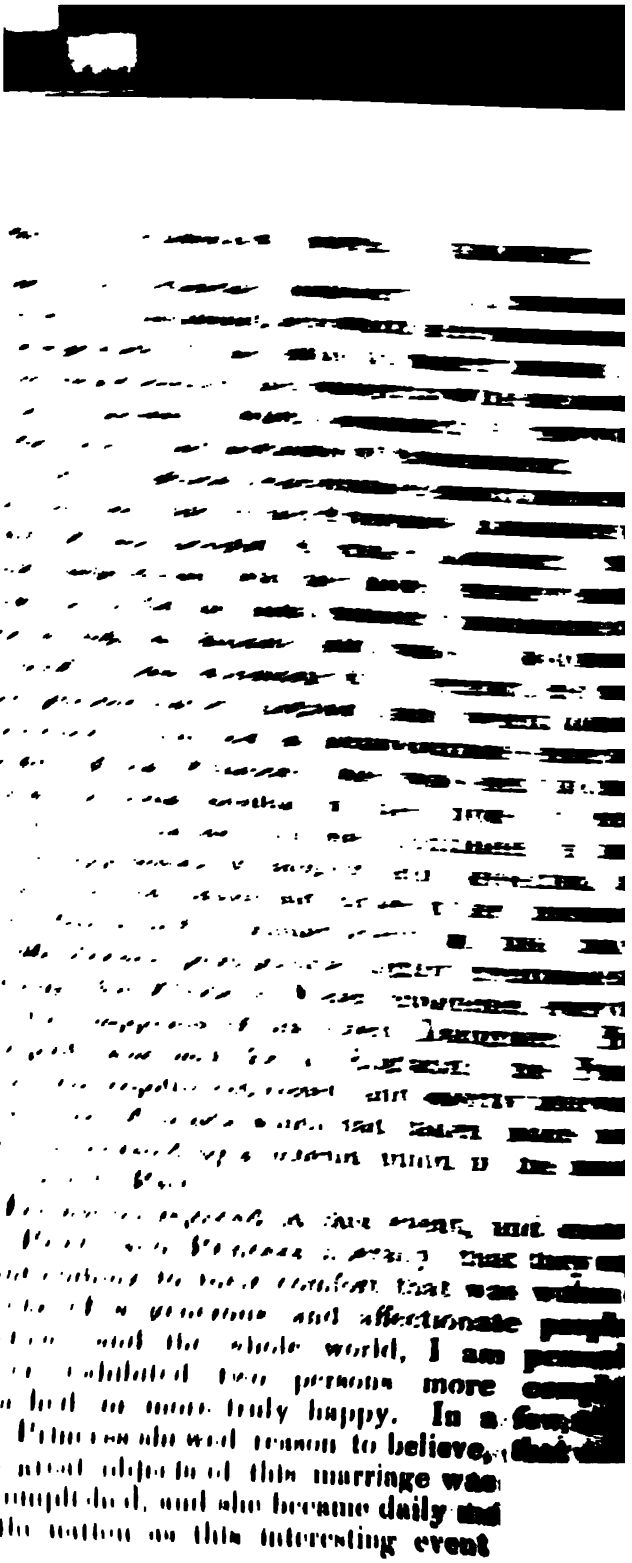
The Princess Charlotte, having then arrived at a degree of maturity, that allowed her to be mistress of her own proceedings, was induced to visit the Duchess of Oldenburgh, where she was introduced to Prince Leopold of Saxe Cobourg, a young man of good person, amiable manners, and of an unquestionable character. The Princess Charlotte was struck with the person and manners of the young man, and her dislike to the negociating connexion with the House of Orange, increased so suddenly, that it was obliged to be broken off. Thus the dexterous policy of Russia succeeded in this great point, though the Princess Charlotte was certainly the gainer, as an individual, by the event.

I trust I shall not be infringing too far on the indulgence of the readers of this work, if I detain them for a moment on this important subject. It is not immediately connected with the Queen of England, but it is important to the best interest of this country.

The rash, adventurous spirit of the French government, not satisfied with an entire dominion over the greater part of Europe, led to a desire of extending its rule over the frozen regions of the North. This wanton effort of lawless ambition failed, as might have been expected; and the hordes that had before been quiet in their desarts, or in their snow-covered valleys, now rushed forwards, inspired by the national feelings of revenge: they followed the discomfited invader through numerous states and kingdoms, triumphing over him at every step, and at last dictated a merciful peace to him in his own capital. Thus did this scarcely civilized people become acquainted with their power, arising from an immense population, from a vast extent of territory, and still more from the obedience

hardihood with which they can long, and without complaining, sustain the greatest fatigues and deprivations; while their moderation, which they shewed in the use they made of their victories, has rendered their name as respectable, as their power has been terrific. The wise and mild government of the present Sovereign of Russia, has gained him the hearts of all his subjects, and thus increased his power more than ten-fold. He occupies himself, in this time of general peace, in promoting the useful arts that are already practised in his own country, and employs agents to draw artisans and men of science from other countries, holding out to them the powerful temptations of liberal rewards. The Duchess of Oldenburgh went to see every thing in England that was ingenious, or deserving of notice; the Emperor of Russia, her brother, was induced, by her account, to visit this truly interesting country, and he improved both his heart and understanding by what he saw here: he learnt in England the true principles of government, by which a nation becomes great, and the Sovereign irresistible. The Brothers of this Monarch have since visited this land of commercial science and arts, followed by a large retinue of well-informed and inquisitive persons. They wished to view the whole of our manufactories and inventions, and national courtesy required that their wish should be indulged; but if such visitors should again come amongst us, I would strongly recommend, for imitation, the conduct of one of the great manufacturers of Birmingham, whose establishment is full of the most ingenious and useful inventions He politely offered to shew the Princes through the whole of his very extensive concerns, but refused to admit their attendants.

I am perfectly convinced that Russia will, at no distant period, become the great domineering power of the civilized world; and I would, therefore, suggest to the deliberate consideration of my country-



nearer to a consummation. Upon this occasion the Queen acted the truly maternal part, in advising every thing that was necessary to be ordered or prepared, with a degree of minuteness that proved at once both her judgment and her kindness. But there was one point, in the conversations which took place on these subjects, which Her Majesty was never able to effect, and that was, as to the female friend who should be with the Princess at the time of her expected parturition. The Queen, by her advanced age, was out of the question; as were the Princesses her Daughters, by their inexperience; but Her Majesty most earnestly recommended Lady Ilchester, not only on account of her being well known to the Princess Charlotte, but on account of her amiable and truly matronly character. But Her Highness always rejected these recommendations, though she deeply felt their kindness; for she had made up her mind most peremptorily, that her delivery should be as private as possible, and that she would have no female with her but her hired attendants. It is well known with what firmness the Princess could adhere to any resolution that she had once taken, and on this subject it was carried to an unfortunate extreme; for though the Prince, her Royal Parent, had desired repeatedly, and with all the earnestness of solicitous affection, that he might be informed the moment she was taken in labour, there was no communication whatever made to him, respecting the state of his beloved Daughter, till she was pronounced to be in danger.

After one of the kind maternal conversations to which I have just alluded, the Queen being withdrawn, the Princess Charlotte, full of gratitude to Her Majesty, exclaimed, "*Well, though I cannot give up the point, yet I shall love Grandmother for it as long as I live, it is* SO VERY KIND OF HER TO TAKE SUCH PAINS ABOUT ME."

I state this on the authority of a Lady who was present, who also heard many other conversations of the same kind; and thus, then, I trust, the calumnious charge of unkindness, on the part of Her Majesty towards her Granddaughter, is completely refuted.

In the mean time the Princess was advancing to that period, in which, it was fairly presumed, the national hope might be gratified, under the medical superintendence of a professor of no great estimation, though bearing a title: and it was then, and it has been ever since, a matter of wonder, how such a person came to be appointed to so important an office; for, besides his being in much less repute than many others of the profession, it was known, though perhaps not generally, that his mind had not always been in a state of that powerful activity which is indisputably necessary to meet the calls and emergencies of a difficult situation. But the error of that gentleman's practice, with regard to the Princess Charlotte, appears to have begun with the commencement of his attendance; for he not only bled his Royal Patient frequently, but he also endeavoured to reduce her system by the positive denial of strongly nutritious food, which is so important for invigorating the constitution preparatory to one of the greatest trials a female has to encounter. The Princess had youth in her favour, and an incomparable state of health, till those unreasonable experiments were made upon her; and I have reason to believe, that she was constantly tormented by the denial of aliments, which she felt necessary to her comfort. Of this I am bound to record an instance.

Her Majesty went to visit the Princess when she was far advanced in her pregnancy, and staid to dine with her. The Queen learnt immediately the kind of abstinence that had been enjoined interesting Granddaughter, and said, "My

Charlotte, this is certainly not right treatment for you;" and offered such reasons in support of her opinion, as were dictated by sound sense and long experience.

Encouraged by this representation, to something like reluctant submission to medical supervision, the Princess Charlotte, in the course of the dinner, contrived to slide her delicate hand along the table, to a corner dish, and to take out the small claw of a lobster, which she trusted to eat unobserved; but the accoucheur was present, watchful for the success of his system, and, observing with jealous eyes the innocent theft of the Princess, he immediately forbad its being appropriated to her use. Her Royal Highness then said, "I am very hungry; what must I eat?" A dish of greens was then presented to the Princess, as her allowance, which, as the Queen described it afterwards, was not composed of young plants, or the tender shoots of old ones, but of "*such coarse leaves as you would give to postillions.*"

The lamentable consequence of such treatment was such as those who knew it fully expected: the history of the world furnishes no instance of a young and healthy woman being put under restraints and deprivations of this kind, nor any reason to believe, that the mother of a prince should have more difficulties to encounter than the mother of a peasant. The lovely, the interesting Princess Charlotte of Wales, brought a son into the world, who lived but a few moments; and she fell a sacrifice to the injudicious proceedings of the man, whose duty it was to sustain her before the trial, and to watch her safely through it. There were so many excitements to national grief on this occasion, that sorrow was universal. The whole population of the country, with one heart and mind, and on one day, not waiting for any Royal ordinance to express their sorrow, thronged to their respective places of

religious worship, and there, prostrating themselves before the altars of their God, deprecated his anger and supplicated his mercy, under this evident visitation of his Providence.

The Princess Charlotte of Wales was a Lady of truly British character: she contemned every thing that was foreign; and seemed to wish, as far as her disposition had been developed, to associate herself, in every thing she did, with English sentiments and English feelings. This being the general opinion, the sanguine tendency of popular expectation calculated on a futurity the most dazzling and felicitous, under her auspices; and, in proportion to the hopes that had been formed, would be the grief at their sudden frustration.

Many were the tributes which the Muse of Sorrow paid to the memory of the Princess, so untimely, as it seemed, snatched away from the affections of an admiring and anxious people; but one, which has never been published, appears to meet the occasion much better than any other.

On the Death of the Princess Charlotte Augusta of Wales.

What sounds are those that, floating on the breeze,
Sound like the murm'ring waves of distant seas?
What mingled groans are those, that seem to sweep
O'er the wide plains, and sound so loud and deep?
What shrieks are those that rend the troubled air,
Like the dire throes of agoniz'd despair?—
Has some vast flood spread devastation round?
Has some dread earthquake rent the peopled ground?
Or has some spark, by ruffian hand apply'd,
O'er hapless towns spread conflagration wide?—
Ah! no—such ills are partial. Groans and sighs,
Like those now heard, must from a nation rise.
But what, so sad, so touching can befall
A nation, to inspire such grief in all?
Will none declare?—Are looks alone to tell
The stroke severe each seems to know so well?
Alas, then, sure I learn what all deplore—
Our lov'd, admir'd Augusta, is no more!

Gone to that Heav'n from which her spirit came,
To register her unnam'd Infant's name;
But there, so suited to the realms of bliss,
She would not try again a world like this.

But there is another circumstance, connected with the Princess Charlotte and her Royal Grandmother, which has been converted into a ground of accusation against the Queen: it is the occurrence of Her Majesty going to Bath, at the time when Her Highness's lying-in was expected; from which, persons who were interested in the misrepresentation, circulated reports that the Queen went purposely out of the way, in enmity to the pregnant young Lady. I am bold to say, that there never was a more unfounded insinuation. The cordiality existing between Her Majesty and the Princess, even within a short time of Her Highness's death, I have shewn, and I trust effectually, from authority that is beyond question; and this ought to be sufficient for all that followed: but I wish, in the vindication of my Queen, (having it so amply in my power,) to stop even the whispers of malignity, by the imposing hand of truth.

The Queen's health was declining, and something seemed necessary to be attempted for its re-establishment. On this occasion we have a melancholy proof of the incertitude of medical advice, and of the importance of trusting rather to common sense than to doctors. Medicine is a speculative science, often acting upon slight conjecture, and liable to the fluctuations of fashion, in favour of particular medicaments and experiments, which derive their whole importance from the names of those who have recommended them.

In the case of Her Majesty, it was insisted by the attending Physician, that the Bath waters were indispensable to recovery; and the idea was urged

by so many arguments, that the journey was, at length, decided upon, though every Member of the Royal Family was against its being undertaken, and though the Queen herself yielded only to the very urgent reasonings of her medical adviser. But in order to be as much as possible within reach of a summons, which, under such circumstances might be expected, this excellent Lady performed the journey of a hundred miles, though in her seventy-fifth year, in one day's travelling, by which it was fully evinced that she could return at a short notice. It was, as I have shewn already, out of the question that the Queen should have attended the labour of her Granddaughter, or even that the Princesses should have been present; and, in so young a person, no danger could, in common probability, be apprehended: but when the melancholy intelligence arrived at Bath of that catastrophe which destroyed the hopes of the nation, Her Majesty retraced the same laborious journey in the same short space of time, in order to shut herself up with the rest of her Family at Windsor, and to mourn over the sad deprivation.

The Queen's opinion of the events at Claremont may be collected from a circumstance that has been stated to me by the Lady whom I have mentioned early in this work, as having established a charity for assisting poor lying-in women, to which Her Majesty had long subscribed. In a conversation which led to the subject, the Queen said, with much emotion, addressing the Lady——"Ah! if Princess Charlotte had been a *poor* woman, and had been recommended to your institution, she would have been alive now, and her child too."

I have pursued these ramifications of my subject to their full extent, for reasons which I offered to the reader soon after the commencement of this Memoir; and it is now necessary for me to

uch events, concerning the King and Queen, vere not immediately connected with these ›des.

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t the time (1810) when the dreadful convulsions Europe were beginning to subside; when the ized world was about to resume its accustomed ngements; when the enemy of religion and r was rapidly approaching the state in which he d no longer carry into effect the mischievous oses of his restless mind—at this interesting eventful period, calamity and trouble began to heavy on the King and Queen.

is Majesty's eye-sight had been long decaying, at length he found himself in complete corporal ness. The Queen, however, found a source of ncholy consolation on this occasion; for it gave ontinual opportunities to shew new, and even tender, attentions to the lord of her heart. an afflicting trial was at hand, in which both destined to feel the heart-rending tortures of wful deprivation.

er Royal Highness, Princess Amelia, the gest Daughter of Their Majesties, was, from youth, of a very tender and delicate constitu- occasionally subject to indispositions; but, amiable in her temper, she was the delight of her al Parents, and an object of most tender affec- to the whole of her Family and connexions. ugh the want of vigorous health gave an appear- of languor to her countenance and figure, yet was a winning gracefulness in her form, and a gnity of deportment and manner in all she did, obtained for her an interest in the bosom of one who had the honour to approach her. le they admired her beauty, they could not fail bserve gentleness blended with fortitude, and uisite sensibility combined with strong mental ers—indeed, this Princess might truly have

been proposed to the world as an example of all that is lovely in woman. Whoever may be called upon, at any time, to write on this interesting subject, will find it difficult to restrain his feelings and his pen.

The health of this truly excellent Princess, long in a declining state, at length advanced to an appearance of rapid decay; and, after a long continuance of bodily suffering, which did not in the least disturb the temper or fortitude of her mind, she yielded up her spirit to Him who gave it, on the second of November. She was previously in so exhausted a state, as to make it difficult to say at what precise moment this event took place; but it seemed to be unaccompanied by any signs of pain.

Many were the tender effusions which the Muse of Sorrow poured out on this melancholy occasion: but I prefer to quote that which came from the pen of Mr. Moser, so highly and so justly celebrated for his very able and interesting researches in British antiquity. The versification does not possess all the sweetness of some other elegiac poets, but the sentiments are unequivocal and impressive: I give but an extract.

———Yon *Castle* bounds our hopes and fears:
Hark! shrieks are heard: the people melt in tears;
From ev'ry bosom heart-felt moans arise,
Responsive echoes bear the mournful cries;
Resounding *Thames* repeats, from shore to shore,
" Amelia! lov'd Amelia! is no more!"
Hope flies from earth, th' eternal fiat's giv'n;
Her soul ascends, and joins the host of Heav'n:
Angels rejoice; and shall we then below
Deplore a Saint relieved from pain and woe?
Yet woe must still be ours; for oh! what heart
But bears a parent's, brother's, sister's part;
Feels their sensations, emulates their grief,
And only from her virtues draws relief;
Virtues that dignify'd the *Royal Maid:*
For every action of her life display'd
Duty, affection, piety, and love,
Accomplish'd sense, the softness of a dove,

Sensations strong that felt for others' woe,
Bounty that bade their tears no longer flow,
And meek-ey'd patience, acting on a mind
Gentle tho' firm, tho' suff'ring yet resign'd.
Such was the *Royal Maid* we now deplore;
But let reflection to our sense once more
Recall her form, where ev'ry female grace
Once shone superior, while her lovely face
Express'd those mental attributes combin'd,
And shew'd benignity with beauty join'd.
The nation grieves; but, ah! who can aspire
To paint the sorrows of her Royal Sire?
Or, while affliction ev'ry where appears,
Describe maternal and consanguine tears?
Sensations strong as these, grief unrepress'd,
Are keenly felt, but cannot be express'd;
Yet consolation's by religion giv'n,
Whence contemplation lifts the soul to Heav'n,
Where lov'd Amelia, freed from mortal pain,
Exemplifies the words, TO DIE IS GAIN.

The remains of this admirable Princess were interred on the thirteenth of November following, at Windsor, when a grand Funeral Procession was formed, beginning about eight o'clock, and proceeding from Augusta Lodge to the Chapel Royal. The Lord Chamberlain's Report thus states the Order of Procession:

Servants and Grooms of Their Majesties, and of the Royal Family, in State Liveries.
Trumpets of the Royal Horse Guards, Blue.

THE HEARSE,

Escort of the Royal Horse Guards, Blue. Staffordshire Militia. — Drawn by the King's set of eight English black horses, fully caparisoned, and driven by Richard Gray, the State Coachman. — Escort of the Royal Horse Guards, Blue. Staffordshire Militia.

Escort of the Royal Horse Guards, Blue, every sixth man bearing a flambeau. — One of His Majesty's carriages, drawn by a full set of English black horses, conveying Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge, the Executors of Her late Royal Highness. — Escort of the Royal Horse Guards, Blue, every sixth man bearing a flambeau.

One of His Majesty's carriages, conveying Lady Alberica Cumberland, Miss Goldworthy, Mrs. Williams, and Mrs. Adams, attendants on the late Princess.

One of His Majesty's carriages, conveying Miss Beverly, Miss Gunbin, Mrs. Robinson, and Mrs. Davenport, attendants on the late Princess.

Carriages of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and Duke of Cambridge, each drawn by six horses.

Upon arriving at the Chapel, the Servants, Grooms, and Trumpets, filed off without side the south door.

At the entrance, the Dean and Prebendaries, attended by the Choir, received the Body, and the remainder of the Procession having been previously formed, the whole proceeded down the south aisle, and up the nave into the choir, in the following order, the Procession being flanked by the Royal Horse Guards, Blue, every fourth man bearing a flambeau.

(c) Poor Knights of Windsor.
Pages of the Royal Family.
Pages of Their Majesties.
Solicitor to Her late Royal Highness,
Charles Becknell, Esq.
Apothecary, Surgeon,
Robert Bevercombe, Esq. David Dundas, Esq.
Curate and Rector of the Parish of Windsor,
Rev. Mr. Gosset. Rev. Mr. Plymley.
Physicians who attended Her late Royal Highness,
Dr. Baillie, Dr. Sir Henry Halford, Bart.
Equerries to the Royal Family.
Equerries to Their Majesties.
Grooms of the Bedchamber to the King,
The Honourable General Finch, General Campbell,
The Honourable R. F. Greville, Charles Herbert, Esq.
The Queen's Vice-Chancellor,
Lieutenant-Colonel Desbrow.
Comptroller of His Majesty's Household, Treasurer of His Majesty's Household,
Lord George Thynne. The Earl of Courtown.
The Queen's Master of the Horse,
The Earl of Harcourt.
Lords of His Majesty's Bedchamber,
The Right Honourable Lord Arden, The Right Honourable Lord St. Helen,
The Right Honourable Lord Rivers, The Right Honourable Lord Beaton.
Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard,
The Earl of Macclesfield.
Choir of Windsor.
The Prebendaries.
The Dean.
The Vice-Chamberlain of His Majesty's Household, acting as Chamberlain, Lord John Thynne. The Lord Steward of His Majesty's Household, The Earl of
Gentleman Usher of His Majesty, bearing the Coronet of Her late upon a black cushion, Vere Warner, Esq.

Supporters of the Pall;
Lady Elis. Thynne,
Lady George Murray.

The Body,
in a coffin covered with crimson velvet, and a black pall, adorned with eight escutcheons of Her Royal Highness's Arms, the coffin carried by eight Yeomen of the Guards.

Supporters of the Pall;
Viscountess Cranley,
Countess of Ely.

CHIEF MOURNER,

Supporter to the Chief Mourner, (veiled) Countess of Dchester.

Countess of Chesterfield, (veiled) her train borne by a Baronet's wife, Lady Halford, (veiled.)

Supporter to the Chief Mourner, (veiled) Countess of Macclesfield.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, in a long black cloak, the train borne by one of His Royal Highness's gentlemen.

His Royal Highness the Duke of York, in a long black cloak, the train borne by one of His Royal Highness's gentlemen.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, in a long black cloak, the train borne by one of His Royal Highness's gentlemen.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, in a long black cloak, his train borne by one of His Royal Highness's gentlemen.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, in a long black cloak, his train borne by one of His Royal Highness's gentlemen.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, in a long black cloak, his train borne by one of His Royal Highness's gentlemen.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, in a long black cloak, the train borne by one of His Royal Highness's gentlemen.

Marquis Cornwallis. Marquis of Abercorn, K. G.

Marquis Wellesley.

Earl of Chesterfield, K. G. Earl of Westmoreland, K. G.
Earl Camden, K. G. Earl Bathurst.
Earl Wilton. Earl of Liverpool.

Earl of Harrowby.

The Lord Bishop of Salisbury, C. G.

Right Honourable Lord Mulgrave. Right Honourable Lord Walsingham.

Right Honourable Lord Eldon.

Right Hon. Charles York. Right Hon. Spencer Perceval.
Right Hon. Robert Dundas. Right Hon. Richard Ryder.

Right Hon. Sir David Dundas, K. B.

Lieutenant-General Calvert.

Count Munster.

Major Price. Colonel Taylor.

Ladies attendant on Her Majesty and the Princesses, viz.

Lady Albinia Cumberland,
Miss Goldsworthy,
Mrs. Williams,

The Honourable Mrs. Egerton, The Honourable Mrs. Fielding,

The Honourable Miss Townshend,

Mademoiselle Beckendorf, Madame Beckendorf,
Miss Knight, Mrs. Adams,
Miss Planta, Miss Montmollin,
Miss Beverley, Miss Gaskin,
Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Davenport.

The Queen's and Princesses' Dressers.

Upon entering the choir, the Body was placed upon tressels, the head towards the altar: and the coronet and cushion were laid on the coffin. The Chief Mourner sat at the head of the corpse; her Supporters on either side; and the Supporters of the Pall, in their places near the Body.

During the Service, which was read by the Honourable and Rev. the Dean of Windsor, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and his Royal Brothers, as well as the Knights of the Garter present, occupied their respective stalls. The Nobility, Privy Councillors, and Officers of the Household, as well as others who had followed the Body, were placed in the vacant and intermediate stalls. The Ladies attendant were in the seat below the stalls, on the north side nearest the altar; the Grooms of the Bedchamber, Physician, Rector and Curate of Windsor, Surgeon, Apothecary, and Solicitor of Her late Royal Highness, in the seat below the stalls on the south side nearest the altar; the Equerries, and Queen's and Princesses' other attendants, in the front seats on either side; the Pages arranged below the altar.

The part of the Service before the interment, and the anthem, being performed, the Procession moved out of the choir, in the order in which it had entered, and proceeded to the north aisle of the choir, flanked by the Royal Horse Guards, Blue, to the place of burial behind the altar.

The Body being deposited in the vault, and the service concluded, Sir Isaac Heard, Garter, after a short pause, pronounced, near the grave, the style of Her late Royal Highness in the usual form; after which the Royal Princes, the Nobility, and others, who had composed the Procession, returned and separated, having thus performed their last duties, and paid their last, but mournful attentions, to the remains of a most amiable and accomplished Princess.

This justly regretted young Lady, in consequence of the tender and reciprocal affection which had long subsisted between them, had appointed her eldest Brother to be her principal Executor, and residuary Legatee; but in order to discharge all her debts, if any, and also to make some bequests of kind remembrance to her friends, as well as to those who had faithfully served her, she directed that her jewels and trinkets should be sold. The Prince of Wales, with a degree of magnanimity which does him the highest honour, took upon himself to pay the debts and legacies, and presented the jewels and other ornaments to the Princess Mary. This was a tribute of delicate respect, which was looked for by those who knew how the Prince had doted on his departed Sister, and who had witnessed the overflowings of his grief at her interment.

But the fate of this lovely Princess will be rendered memorable in the history of Britain, by the melancholy effect which was produced on the heart and mind of her Royal Father, by the loss of one, whom, next to the Queen, he most dearly loved. A few hours before the death of the Princess, a circumstance took place which made an unconquerable impression on the King's mind. The Princess, wishing to leave to her Royal Father some memorial of her duty and affection, had caused a ring to be made, in which was inserted, under a crystal, a lock of her hair; and on the inside her name, with the words, *Remember me.* On the King making his accustomed visit to the sick chamber, he held out his hand, as usual, to the Princess, who had just strength to take advantage of the opportunity, and to put the ring on his finger. His Majesty was much affected; but did not feel the whole effect of so tender a parting token, till he had retired and was at leisure to examine it. Those only who have been parents, and who have experienced the loss of such a child, can imagine the agitation of the Royal

Parent's mind: they had an effect that was never to be obliterated.

This was the first occasion the King and Queen met with, in which they were to deplore the loss of one who had been endeared to their affections by habits of long intercourse and usage, as well as by the possession and display of every engaging quality, both of person and mind. The Princess Alfred and Octavius, though sincerely regretted by their Royal Parents, died too young to inspire a lasting grief; for the attachment of the parental mind to their very young offspring, is rather a matter of principle, than of deeply rooted sentiment. Their Majesties, though in so elevated a station, which could necessarily command every species of society, never looked for happiness, never thought of any thing to be called pleasure, but in their domestic circle. The Sons of this illustrious Pair had all grown up, and gone forth into the world in different professions and pursuits; forming new connexions and friendships; and were, consequently, but seldom with their Royal Parents; and it was therefore in the affectionate attentions, in the conversations, in the solicitous assiduity of their Daughters, that the King and Queen looked for, and found, the greatest of their earthly enjoyment. The bright star of this constellation of domestic felicity, was the Princess Amelia. I have described the circumstances which contributed to render her peculiarly interesting, and she was beloved with the most devoted affection by all the Family. The King, tender-hearted and truly paternal, was attached to all his Family; but the youngest seemed to have a ten-fold share of his regard. He, therefore, brooded over his loss; and grief, which in most others is mitigated by time, seemed in the Royal bosom to feed upon itself, and to grow stronger by gentle nuance.

The whole Nation had, at length, to

serious illness of our venerable Sovereign, who, after having conducted the government of these kingdoms through times of extreme trial, and yet of increasing prosperity, was prevented, by a most calamitous return of his former affliction, from seeing the accomplishment of his plans for the tranquillity of Europe, to which he had looked forwards with the most unwearied anxiety. The paternal feelings of His Majesty more than balanced his religious fortitude, (something of constitution probably concurring,) and the Royal mind seemed to be entering upon that state which it had experienced in the latter part of the year 1788. In consequence, the King became incapable of performing his Royal functions. I hope I may be allowed to go somewhat more than I have usually done, into details on this interesting subject. Three weeks before the Princess Amelia's death, the attendant Physicians had thought it their duty to inform the King, that there was no hope of her recovery; and that she might expire in any following hour. His Majesty felt this deeply, and appeared afterward to be agitated or depressed according to the report of the attending Physicians. The *Memento mori*, which the departing Daughter put upon her Father's finger, finished this distressing consummation, when followed by the expected catastrophe. The King spent some days devoting himself to grief, uttering continual inquiries after his Daughter, his beloved Daughter! and at length the fortitude of his mind sunk under the pressure of domestic calamity.

On the 25th of October following, the Gentlemen, whose duty it was to attend upon His Majesty's person, felt it important to communicate to the Prime Minister of Government, the extraordinary change they observed in His Majesty's conversation and deportment.

I must suspend the melancholy narrative of

Royal affliction in this place, to state, that the second William Pitt, the champion of the People, the supporter of the Throne, and the devoted friend of the Constitution, was no longer the King's principal Minister, and that the important duty had devolved upon one, not inferior in purity of heart to his predecessor, though not possessing the same comprehensive powers of mind, or the same talents for public persuasion.

On the 26th the King's disorder had increased, and on the 27th it became so alarming, that a Council was held, in which the Lord Chancellor presided, and at which Dr. Hebberden was commanded to attend; the result of which was, that the Physicians and medical attendants, only, should have access to the Royal apartments. On the 29th, Lord Eldon and Mr. Perceval had a long audience of the Queen, and afterwards received the opinions of the Physicians; who all concurred in declaring, that the fever might speedily subside; but that, in his present state, they did not consider His Majesty able to attend to public business. Upon this report the Ministers felt it to be inconsistent with their responsibility, to submit to His Majesty, for the intended Sign Manual, the Commission to prorogue the Parliament, as, without such Sign Manual, the Chancellor knew that he could not put to it the Great Seal of the Kingdom.

In this melancholy suspension of the Executive Power, messengers were dispatched for the immediate attendance in London of all the Great Officers of State, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Marquis of Wellesley, the President of the Council, and all others concerned. Their first Report upon the very interesting, though not novel predicament, was issued in a kind of official statement.

On the third day afterwards, another Council was held; and the Report of the Physicians being His Majesty's fever had not abated, circum-

were sent to those who were in the habit of taking part in the discussion of all great parliamentary questions, that it would be important to have as full an attendance as possible at the meeting of the Two Houses on the Thursday following, as it was found improbable that a further prorogation could legally be made. On that day another Council was held, in consequence of which Lord Eldon, Mr. Perceval, the Marquis Wellesley, and other principal Members, went to Windsor, to examine the Physicians, and then to determine, from the state of His Majesty's health, whether it would be proper to take his pleasure on the important document which had been prepared according to his previous command. They found the King's disorder still prevailing, and with such violence, that they judged it improper in the highest degree to bring the subject before him, although His Majesty had passed a tolerable night. These Ministers of State, therefore, returned to town, to devise the best methods they were able, in their collective wisdom, and to ask such further assistance and advice from the hereditary and septennial members of the constitution, as the security of that constitution, and the welfare of the country, might require.

Had this situation of the Government been *new*, it would have been extremely embarrassing; but the circumstance having occurred before, under the supervision of the greatest statesman this country ever produced, there was a precedent to apply to, which removed much of the difficulty; and the King's Ministers determined to adhere, as closely as they could, to what had been done before, by one whom the country still held in grateful remembrance. It was said, upon this occasion, that the great departed Minister, had, like the great Prophet recorded in the Bible, left his mantle behind him, and that his successors had covered themselves with it. That he had taken his talents with

him, is most unquestionable: but if by his mantle were meant his principles and his honesty, then the similitude was most apposite; for I believe, conscientiously, that this country never had a set of Ministers more truly honest than at the time when these proceedings took place.

We will look first to the House of Lords, which began to assemble as early as three o'clock on the Thursday appointed; and the Lord Chancellor having arrived, and prayers having been read, the public business commenced, by his Lordship thus addressing the House:

"My Lords, it is necessary for me to state the particular circumstances of our being assembled. Your Lordships can have no doubt, after the general notice which was given, and the expressed intention of His Majesty previously noticed, and the orders which had been already issued in the Gazette for a Royal Commission, that it was in contemplation that Parliament should be prorogued to the twenty-ninth. But from the peculiar situation of His Majesty's health, it was not thought proper to carry that intention into effect. It is, my Lords, with the deepest solicitude I have to state these reasons, and His Majesty's present ill state of health, which has been occasioned by a very severe and heavy pressure of domestic calamity; but while I state it with sorrow, I entertain a confident expectation, supported by that of his Physicians, that His Majesty will, in a short period, recover from his present indisposition. Upon this account, and any doubt which might arise as to any Commission without the Sign Manual, I thought it expedient not to affix the Great Seal. Under these circumstances, it remains for your Lordships to determine, whether at this time you will adjourn; or to adopt such measures, as in your Lordships' judgment this House ought to pursue on the present occasion."

The Earl of Liverpool lamented, in the most pathetic terms, the calamitous state of the King's health, arising from so severe a domestic visitation; but expressed his confident hope that the circumstances would be temporary: he therefore recommended the House to adjourn to the fifteenth month; which was immediately adopted.

The House of Commons, though not without some altercation, adopted a similar proceeding; and both Houses met again on the appointed day.

In the mean time, it had become necessary for the feelings of the People, devoted as they were to such a King, to publish daily reports of His Majesty's health, which, in criminal imitation of the modern French jargon, were called Bulletins. These were prepared by the attending Physicians, and, like the pendulum of a clock, vibrated sometimes a little on one side, and sometimes a little on the other side; but always without having a fixed point, or giving any thing that could tend to allay the great anxiety of the Nation, or to relieve the embarrassment of the King's Ministers.

The Houses of Parliament, however, adjourned once more, and assembled on the 27th of December, 1810, to consider what should be done to supply the deficiency of the Kingly power. Mr. Perceval, the Prime Minister of the Crown, had, in the mean time, submitted to the Prince of Wales a plan for investing him with the Regency, under restrictions something like those which had been offered on a similar melancholy occurrence before. To this His Royal Highness replied immediately, that he would consult his brother, the Duke of York; but that he could give no opinion on the proposition till it had been laid before both Houses of Parliament.

In the House of Lords, one of the Opposition Peers, whose name must ever be respected by the admirers of taste and genius, arraigned the King's Ministers for having laid the Constitution prostrate, in order to suit their own particular interests. The House then formed itself into a Committee; and the Earl of Liverpool exculpated himself and his colleagues most clearly, by shewing the terrible dilemma into which the House would have been plunged on a former occasion, had they accelerated their proceedings, as then recommended, and voted

an act of Regency at the time the King was recovering his powers to administer the Government. Lord Liverpool proceeded at great length to adduce precedents to illustrate his subsequent propositions, and concluded with moving Resolutions for a Bill to invest the Prince of Wales with the powers of Government under certain restrictions. The Duke of Sussex, and after him the Duke of York, argued against the competency of Parliament to substitute what their Royal Highnesses called a *phantom*, for the Royal power, and insisted on the right of succession to the entire possession of the Royal functions, in the case of a suspension, the same as in a demise of the Crown: but as this principle had been brought forwards and combated effectually in 1788, the observations made little impression on the House; the resolutions were passed, notwithstanding the opposition of those few Lords who had reason to hope that an unlimited Regency, under the Prince of Wales, would promote their individual interests; and after some modifications made in them by conferences with the Commons, the Resolutions were presented to His Royal Highness, and his Answer was brought to the House by the Earl Camden.

"My Lords, and Gentlemen,

"I received the communication which the Two Houses directed you to make to me of their joint Resolutions, on the subject of providing for the exercise of the Royal Authority during His Majesty's illness, with those sentiments of regard which I must ever entertain for the united desires of the Two Houses.

"With the same sentiments I receive the expression of the Lords and Commons, that from my regard for the interests of His Majesty and the Nation, I should be ready to undertake the weighty and important trust proposed to be invested in me, under the limitations and restrictions stated in those Resolutions.

"Conscious that every feeling of my heart would prompted me, from dutiful affection to my beloved

and Sovereign, to have shewn all the reverential delicacy towards him intended in these resolutions, I cannot refrain from expressing my regret, that I should not have been allowed the opportunity of manifesting to his affected and loyal subjects, that such would have been my conduct.

"Deeply impressed, however, with the necessity of tranquillizing the public mind, and determined to submit to every personal sacrifice, consistent with the regard I owe to my Father's Crown, and the equal regard I owe to the welfare of his People, I do not hesitate to accept the office and situation proposed to me, restricted as they are; still retaining every opinion expressed by me on a former and similar distressing occasion.

"In undertaking the part proposed to me, I am well aware of the difficulties of the situation in which I shall be placed; but I shall rely with confidence on the constitutional advice of an enlightened Parliament, and in the zealous support of a generous and loyal People. I will use all the means left to me to merit both."

"My Lords, and Gentlemen,

"You will communicate this my Answer to the two Houses, accompanied by my most fervent wishes and prayers, that the Divine Will may extricate us and the nation from the grievous embarrassments of our present condition, by the speedy restoration of His Majesty's health."

The proposed arrangement went also to invest the Queen with the care of His Majesty's Person, assisted by a Council, to meet every month, to examine the state of the King's health, and to report their opinion. A deputation had been made to the Queen, in order to communicate the intentions of Parliament; and Her Majesty's answer was made to the same sitting of the House of Lords which received the Prince of Wales's reply to the Resolutions of both Houses. It was delivered by the Earl of Harcourt, thus:—

"My Lords, and Gentlemen,

"That sense of duty and gratitude to the King, and of obligation to this Country, which induced me in the year

1789, to promise my most earnest attention to the most anxious and momentous trust at that time intended to be reposed by Parliament, is strengthened, if possible, by the uninterrupted enjoyment of those blessings which I have continued to experience, under the protection of His Majesty, since that period: and I should be wanting to all my duties, if I hesitated to accept the sacred trust which is now offered to me.

"The assistance, in point of council and advice, which the wisdom of Parliament proposes to provide for me, will make me undertake the charge with greater hopes that I may be able satisfactorily to fulfil the important duties which it must impose upon me.

"Of the nature and importance of that charge I cannot but be duly sensible, involving, as it does, every thing that is valuable to myself, as well as the highest interests of a people endeared to me by so many ties and considerations; but by nothing so strongly as by their steady, loyal, and affectionate attachment to the best of Kings."

Both these answers were ordered to be printed, because they seemed so entirely to meet the feelings and wishes of the House; and a resolution, proposed by Lord Liverpool, was afterwards adopted, for appointing Commissioners to open the Session of the two Houses. Further proceedings took place, and the Prince of Wales was finally invested with the powers of Government, subject to limitations for a time; which, owing to the lamentable continuance of His Majesty's indisposition, expired at the appointed time, and His Royal Highness, in consequence, became the virtual Sovereign of the British Empire.

Let us pause at this eventful period of our Memoir, and look on every side, that we may draw useful conclusions from the great and important facts.

We have, for the first object in our view, an amiable, an accomplished, a wise, and patriotic King, who had, in a state of maturity, governed the nation for fifty years, with the mildness of a parent, snatched suddenly from his people, [illegible]

friends, from his Family—not by the hand of death, which would have left to all, the consolation that his mortal vicissitudes and trials were at an end, and that he was translated into brighter regions to receive his everlasting reward; but by the sudden occurrence of an affliction, which, while it cut him off from all the duties of a social being, from all the tender communications of reciprocal service and affection, still left his Family and his People to mourn, that, though effectually lost to them, he was still suffering. Surely when we consider the character of this excellent King, as exemplified in all his acts, we must look upon his affliction as a judgment on the Nation, for some of its rebellions against his mild and benevolent reign. The National Church viewed the infliction in this way, as well it might, and appointed a form in which its members should endeavour to address their offended Maker:

"O God, who commandest us, when we are in trouble, to open our hearts, and to tell out our sorrows unto Thee in prayer, and dost promise to listen with compassion to our humble supplications, give us grace so to approach Thee, that we offend not in word or in thought: put away from us every impatient feeling; silence every unworthy expression; let not our prayers assume the language of complaint, nor our sorrows the character of despair.

"Upon Thee, O God, and upon the multitude of Thy mercies, we repose our grief. To Thee alone we look for that blessing for which our hearts bleed. Raise, we beseech Thee, our beloved Sovereign from the bed of sickness and affliction; soothe his parental cares; restore him to his Family, and to the People.

"And of thy great mercy, O God! look down with pity and compassion on the accumulated sorrows of the Royal Family. Give them strength, and courage, and virtue, to meet with pious submission the grievous trial to which they are exposed; and whether it shall seem fit to thine unerring wisdom presently to remove from us this great calamity, or for a time to suspend it over us, teach both them and us, patiently to adore thy inscrutable providence, and to bless thy holy Name for ever and ever.

"These prayers and supplications we humbly address to thy Divine Majesty, in the name, and through the mediation, of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ."

The next object in this distressful picture, is, an incomparable Queen, suddenly widowed, by the loss of a most excellent Consort, and not having, even under so severe an affliction, the consolation which might have accompanied such a deprivation, had death given the fatal blow; for then the virtues, the piety, of the departed, would have left to his sorrowing relatives the assurance of his being transferred to a state of everlasting felicity: here, the bosom of the Queen was more severely lacerated by the consciousness, that though her beloved Partner was taken from her for life, he was still in a state of affliction. It is difficult to conceive the anguish of such a situation; and it is utterly impossible to describe it. The Queen drew some consolation, in this situation of severe trial, from the dutiful and affectionate attentions of her children, particularly those of the Prince of Wales; but she drew still more from her pious reflections. There is, if I am not misinformed, a small book of devotional exercises, written about this time by Her Majesty, which breathes throughout the finest spirit of piety and devotedness.

This melancholy and deeply lamented state of the King has continued so long, that His Majesty may now be considered as dead to his subjects. I will, therefore, take advantage of an opportunity, which may not occur to me again, of stating what appears to be the true character of our lamented Sovereign.

As a man, GEORGE THE THIRD was virtuous, learned, wise, and pious; *as a Husband*, he was faithful, kind, exemplary, during a union of more than fifty years; *as a Father*, his affectionate kindness and attention were unremitting; and he endeavoured to inculcate, upon every occasion,

minds of his Children, the great and noble principles that filled his own. Even in the course of learning to write, advantage was taken, by his direction, to impress the Royal Children with some important truth, or with some dignified sentiment. Of this an instance is given in a fac-simile of the writing of the Prince of Wales and Duke of York when children. *As a Friend*, His Majesty was warm, sincere, and constant; *as a King*, he was majestic, yet gracious, always anxious to dissipate those terrors which young persons, or the timid, cannot avoid feeling when in the presence of Royalty: he was devotedly attached to the Constitution of the Country, a firm supporter of its institutions and its laws, yet always tempering justice with mercy. He loved the People as his children; felt for their distresses, when the nation experienced any calamitous visitation; rejoiced with them, when there was any cause of national triumph; and, through the whole of his long reign, concurred most readily in every measure that promised any addition to the comforts, or to the proper freedom, of his subjects. Under his auspices, British commerce rose to a degree of extent and prosperity never exhibited before in any age or country; he endeavoured by every possible means to encourage agriculture; and he set the example himself, in order to convince others, that there is nothing, in the practices of rural economy, inconsistent with high rank.

GEORGE THE THIRD was on all occasions the patron of learned men, and a zealous promoter of education amongst the poor. He said on a particular occasion, he wished every one of his subjects could read the Bible, for he knew well, that it consoles, while it instructs and guides; and it would have furnished one of his highest gratifications, had he retained till now his mental consciousness, to see *that pious wish* so nearly upon the point of being accomplished. The King was also the warm patron

of elegant arts, which have flourished to a high degree during his reign. I cannot refrain from giving in this place a circumstance connected with one of those arts, because it serves so completely to illustrate His Majesty's character.

An artist, of great ability, had been introduced to the employment and patronage of the Queen, by her tasteful and judicious Lord Chamberlain; and Her Majesty, wishing to serve the artist still further, frequently solicited the King to give him some commissions. This, however, the King omitted to do, probably thinking that one branch of Royal patronage was sufficient: till hearing that the artist had just lost a favourite daughter, and that it seemed to make a deep and alarming impression on his mind, the kind-hearted Monarch immediately sent him an order to paint for him a magnificent picture, large in extent and difficult in subject, conceiving that this demand for important and powerful exertion, would withdraw the painter's mind from his mournful and oppressive contemplations, and give a new and salutary direction to his thoughts. The benevolent intention was completely successful: an incomparably fine picture was produced; the artist's sorrow was soothed; and the gratified King rewarded the production with a present of twelve hundred guineas; the largest sum which, at that time, had ever been given for a picture of the British school. As a further mark of Royal favour, the King afterwards conferred the honour of Knighthood on this truly eminent painter.

But to do full justice to His Majesty's character in all points, would require a volume; I will therefore compress the whole into the words of one of his amiable Daughters, with whom I had the honour of conversing on the subject, "We shall never look upon his like again."

The great mass of the people, after the Prince of Wales had been invested with the sovereign author-

rity, looked up to the Regent with trembling expectation; not because they doubted his abilities, for those were known to be of the very first class; not because they doubted his sentiments with regard to the Constitution and to the People, for it had been long ascertained that they were truly English. The eager fondness of hope in the popular mind was somewhat checked by the hesitations of fear, lest the Prince should place too great a degree of confidence in his former companions. But the result was, to the great joy of the nation, very different from what had been anticipated. Attempts were made by a Nobleman of high talents and of unimpeachable honour, an intimate friend of the Regent, to form an united administration for carrying on His Royal Highness's government; but the inordinate eagerness for power, in those who had long constituted the Opposition, defeated these wise endeavours. The Prince, in the mean time, had been furnished with the opportunity of seeing and knowing those servants of His Majesty, whom he had before been taught to despise, and he found them upright, well-intentioned men; capable of conducting the affairs of the nation. The consequence was, that most of them were continued in their appointments; and I am fully persuaded that there are very few persons not inclined to admit, that the country has never been better governed, or its interests and its glory more wisely sustained and protected, than under the Regency of the Prince of Wales.

But there was one consequence, necessarily resulting from the King's afflicting state, which was painfully felt by all ranks of persons in the country. The Queen, having the care of His Majesty's person, and deeply contemplating his calamitous state, withdrew from society in a great degree, and spent her time in retirement with her Daughters at Windsor. There were, therefore, no Drawing Rooms held, at which the Nobility and Gentry of

of the country, and Foreigners, could assemble, as before; unless upon some very important public occasions, and then the Queen forced herself to the exertion, as a Royal duty. Society amongst the great and the wealthy thus lost its point of concentration and union, and many articles of elegant manufacture experienced a greatly diminished sale; and many ingenious persons of both sexes, as well as many shopkeepers, were left almost without employment. The Regent, in the full magnificence of his princely spirit, did all in his power to obviate the misfortune, and with some success; but I am convinced, a female Court, such as the nation had long been used to, is essential to its best interests, and to its real prosperity.

The first occasion which called the Queen forth from her retirement, was the necessity of receiving the Duchess of Oldenburgh; but the Court was held at Buckingham House, instead of St. James's Palace, and the arrangements were made with a view to relieve Her Majesty, as much as possible, from fatigue. The Queen stationed herself in the Great Drawing Room, and *remained*, instead of going round her company, as had been usual before; and the visitors, entering at one door, paid their respects, and passed out at another avenue, as soon as they chose: by which manner of proceeding the Drawing Room was concluded in half the time it had been accustomed to occupy, and the Queen avoided the heat and pressure of a constantly accumulating assembly.

The second occasion of this kind, was one which must ever be memorable in the history of Britain, as illustrative of her grandeur and her glory. The Emperor of Russia had lately seen the energies of England displayed in subduing, mainly, if not entirely, the mightiest power that had yet appeared on the continent of Europe; and he had not into the field with his armies but just [illegible]

share in the high gratification of giving peace to the agonized world. This great Emperor could not but observe, as a geographer, that this nation occupied a small Island on the very outskirts of Europe, not larger in dimensions than one of his own provinces; and he wondered whence so small a state derived the mighty power to perform such high achievements. He determined, therefore, to visit England; to learn its policy, to examine its institutions, and to carry away with him to his own states, if possible, the spirit and the principles of them all. His Imperial Majesty was accompanied by the King of Prussia; and it was for the purpose of receiving these Sovereigns, that our venerable Queen forced herself once more into public life, by holding a splendid Court for to do them honour.

The benefits that have already resulted, and those which are likely still further to result, to mankind, from the Emperor's visit to this country, are too great almost for speculation. He learned here, that a Monarch, in order to be truly great, must labour to make his People great; but he also learned, *amongst us*, that spirit of pure religion which brings a blessing on every thing man attempts. He carried these treasures with him to Russia; he has emancipated his people from feudal vassalage; and he is *now* labouring to put the Bible into the hands of every one, because he had found that, in England, there was scarcely an individual, however humble, that was without it. The magnificent effects of this conduct are even now rapidly unfolding themselves; and it is not too bold to express my conviction, that Russia will contribute, most materially, to bring on that blessed day, foretold in the Scripture, when there shall be but "one fold and one Shepherd." I regret that my limits preclude me from giving to the public some very interesting facts upon this subject, which I have in private communications.

The reader is now to prepare for the end, the inevitable catastrophe, which must put an end to this interesting, this important, and, I trust I may say, instructive Memoir.

The Queen's health had, for some time, been falling short of its usual vigour; and a journey to Bath was strenuously recommended for its re-establishment, by one of the attending Physicians, and was recommended with so much earnestness, that, as *I have intimated already*, Her Majesty yielded to the experiment, against her own judgment, as well as against the judgment of every Member of her anxious Family. But the waters of that celebrated resort for invalids, produced no beneficial effect on the Royal Patient; while the circumstance of performing the journey four times, and with such rapidity, tended, most unquestionably, to weaken a constitution, beginning to sink under the weight of a long and active life. In the following summer, Her Majesty shewed symptoms of an alarming disorder, which has never been explained in a way satisfactory to the public: it has been called by various denominations, and was, perhaps, a complication of disorders, of which one characteristic feature was, a tendency to dropsy; but it manifested its presence by frequent spasms of the most excruciating kind. The first serious attack of this disorder, which lasted so long, with very few intermissions, was perceived on a journey from Buckingham House to Windsor, in which the convulsions became so violent, that the Royal Party deemed it unwise to proceed further than the Palace at Kew. From this attack, however, the Queen gradually recovered; and hopes began to be entertained, that the complaint might be finally overcome. The next attack took place at an entertainment given by the Duke and Duchess of York, in the June of [illegible] after which Her Majesty was unable to walk. The immediate cause of this attack was [illegible]

have arisen from the agitations of the Queen's mind, on the manner in which she was received in the City, when going to the Mansion House to patronize the National Schools of the Metropolis. None of the City Officers were in readiness to escort Her Majesty at Temple Bar, as had been usual; and, therefore Mr. Lee, the High Constable of Westminster, who preceded the Royal carriage with his staff, was, contrary to all precedent, obliged to continue his attendance till the Queen arrived at the Mansion House. Rumour stated these and other circumstances, which took place on the occasion, to account for the beginning of Her Majesty's last illness: but rumour, as usual, was mistaken. The privacy with which she was received into the City, and at the Mansion House, was by her own direction; for it was far from the Queen's practice, to order trumpets to be sounded when she was about to perform an act of benevolence or charity. Her Majesty, when quitting the carriage, was observed to tremble exceedingly; and though she appeared to make great efforts for self-command, was scarcely able to sustain herself. The coldness of the Egyptian Hall, the affecting nature of the sight of so many children, now brought forwards with the advantages of education, the length of the proceeding, and state of her health, already more than doubtful, brought on, before night, a very serious return of the Queen's disorder, which, with one short interval, ceased only with her life. Her Majesty was at Buckingham House when this attack came on; but the Physicians conceiving that change of air and of scene might be useful, she was removed in an easy carriage to Kew Palace, accompanied by the Princess Augusta and the Duchess of Gloucester, who continued with their illustrious Parent till her death. The Queen experienced a most anxious desire to be moved to Windsor, and many strange reasons were assigned to account for

it, public report being ever anxious to find an extraordinary motive for every thing. Nothing could be more natural than this wish, when the tender attachment of the Queen to her afflicted Lord is considered: to be near him, must have been a great alleviation to her feelings; and to die under the same roof, must have been a consolation next to that of breathing her last sigh in his arms. This, however, for wise purposes, the providence of God denied to the heart of suffering Majesty.

During the long-continued balance of the Queen's health between life and death, many expedients were tried to give her personal ease or convenience, most of which are said to have been made by the direction of the Prince Regent. Amongst others, carriages of a peculiar construction, calculated to prevent the effects of progressive motion, were prepared, in order that Her Majesty might have the benefit of open and pure air, with something like exercise; but those Her Majesty was prevented from using, by the accumulating symptoms of her disorder. Chair-beds and easy-chairs, it was said, had been made for the purpose of ease to the Queen, which did not answer the end proposed; and Her Majesty at last took to one of the common chairs of the apartment, in which she sat for days, and, I believe I may say, for weeks, resting her elbows on a kind of sofa-table, that was placed before her, and in which chair she died.

The medical attendants upon the Royal sufferer were, Sir Francis Millman, Sir Henry Halford, and Mr. Brande, Apothecary. Mr. Keate, Surgeon to the Queen, was in attendance, and he performed the only operation that took place. Dr. Baillie was on one occasion called in, but no alteration of treatment took place in consequence.

To follow the various changes of Her Majesty's disorder, from its assuming a dangerous aspect to the termination of her mortal existence, [illegible]

pitulate the official reports which were daily issued for the satisfaction of the Public, is not within the plan or compass of this work: they were as vague as medical reports could possibly be made, where the object is to conceal the truth without committing the writers. It is sufficient to say, that the disease advanced in virulence; each interval of something like repose being shorter than the preceding one, each paroxysm more acute, each struggle more nearly mortal.

That Her Majesty was provided with the best medical advice which England, the centre of human art and knowledge, could afford, must be a solid satisfaction to those who were personally attached to her, as well as to all her sympathizing subjects. This was an advantage which few persons, even of high rank, can obtain; but the Queen had an advantage far beyond this, for she had the constant, the unremitted, the anxious attentions and attendance, of many of her Children. Amongst these demonstrations of devoted filial love, those of the Prince Regent shone the most conspicuous. Engaged as he was with the cares and the duties of governing a great nation, he travelled every day to Kew, to spend some hours with his illustrious Mother, shewing his solicitude and distress in his countenance, and in his frequent tears. These are consolations which must pluck every thorn from the pillow of the dying, and make the sufferer feel that the separation will be but of short continuance.

I must now enter on the melancholy task of detailing the circumstances which shortly preceded, and which attended, Her Majesty's death. Up to the morning of Monday, the Queen had continued resting upon her elbows, and leaning to the right side; constantly having the support of the arms of Mrs. Beckendorf; but in that morning she inclined herself considerably to the other side, from which some kind of crisis was expected. As, however, the

Royal Patient continued tranquil, Sir Henry Halford prepared for his visit to the Princess Sophia, at Windsor, who was confined there by a serious illness. The carriage was at the door, waiting to convey him; but the Queen suddenly became so restless, that he was obliged to postpone his journey.

At half-past seven o'clock, the second messenger of the day, from Carlton House, who had been waiting at the Palace, was dispatched with letters from the Princess Augusta, and from the Physicians, to the Prince Regent; the consequence of which was, that between nine and ten o'clock, His Royal Highness, accompanied by the Duke of York, arrived at the Palace, and had an immediate interview with the medical attendants. After their conference, His Royal Highness accompanied the Princesses to the chamber of Her Majesty, and remained there a considerable time.

From nine o'clock all the worst symptoms of the Queen's disorder developed themselves, in succession, with alarming rapidity; and the most serious apprehensions being entertained for the result, the Prince determined to spend the night at Kew. In consequence, orders were given to prepare apartments for His Royal Highness in the mansion of the Duke of Cambridge on Kew Green; but soon after twelve o'clock, so material an abatement took place in Her Majesty's sufferings, that this arrangement was abandoned, and His Royal Highness left the Palace for London, in company with the Duke of York.

The relaxation, however, in the symptoms of Her Majesty's disorder, was but temporary; they soon returned with increased severity, and through the remainder of the night she was in almost continual pain. Sir Francis Millman, Sir Henry Halford, and Mr. Brande, remained in the anti-chamber nearly the whole night; and the Princesses did not retire till three o'clock in the morning.

nine and ten o'clock on the next morning, (Tuesday) the Physicians issued their written report, and it was thus worded:

"*Kew Palace, Nov.* 17.—The Queen's state last night was one of great and imminent danger. Her Majesty remains very ill this morning.

"F. MILLMAN. H. HALFORD."

At half-past nine o'clock, this statement was forwarded to Town, in the usual manner, for publication; and the groom, who carried it, was also the bearer of a letter to the Prince Regent, describing the variations which had taken place in Her Majesty's disease since His Royal Highness's departure.

The messenger had not left the Palace more than three-quarters of an hour, when Her Majesty became so much worse, that a second messenger was dispatched to Carlton House, to request the immediate attendance of the Prince. Couriers were sent, at the same time, to the Archbishop of Canterbury, to Dr. Baillie, Mr. Keate, Mr. Braude, and to Lady Halford. Centinels were placed at the extremity of Kew Green, to prevent carriages with inquiries from approaching the Palace. Other messengers were sent to the Duchess of York at Oatlands, to the Duke of Sussex at Tunbridge-Wells, and to the Princess at Windsor Castle; every symptom threatening a rapid approach of the awful crisis.

The Queen continued the whole afternoon in a state of apparent lethargy, and was supposed to be entirely unconscious of every thing; but the contrary was proved at five o'clock in the afternoon, by her uttering the last words she attempted to speak. Mrs. Beckendorf, the most faithful and affectionate of servants, had been supporting the Royal sufferer in her arms for ten hours without intermission, and almost wearied out with the exertion; and believing the Queen unconscious of what was passing, she

ejaculated, in German, "This is a life of toil and trouble; but there is another life beyond it, in which none shall know trouble." Her Majesty, in a voice perfectly audible, immediately added, "*Very true,*" to the surprise of those who were present.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Prince Regent, and the Duke of York, had arrived at Kew soon after the middle of the day, when Sir Henry Halford announced to them and the Princesses, that the termination of Her Majesty's afflicting trials might be expected to take place in a few hours. The Prince and the Duke received this intelligence, though long expected, with deep and undisguised sorrow; the Duchess of Gloucester bore it with some command of her emotions; but the Princess Augusta continued for some time in a violently hysterical state, which required great attention from the Physicians then at Kew. The Queen continued unconscious, or at least without shewing any signs of consciousness, till the hour of her death, after she had uttered the words I have stated above, breathing so lightly at some times, that it was scarcely possible to say if she breathed or not. At one o'clock, in the following night, the Queen's respiration appeared to have ceased, and her afflicted Children were withdrawing to indulge the violence of their grief in other apartments, when their venerated Mother audibly breathed her last, before they left the room.

Thus has passed from a world full of trouble and anxiety, to another and a better world where there is neither tears nor sorrowing, the most exemplary

and the most virtuous woman that ever adorned human society. Placed during a long life in a situation of uncommon splendour—having an unbounded influence, by mutually tender attachment, over the mind of a great Monarch—her situation was one of uncommon trial. She came to England almost as a child, and from a very limited circle of action; and she displayed immediately the dignity, the condescension, and the benevolence, of a great Queen. It is true, the deeds of this distinguished Lady are not of that dazzling kind which emblazon the bright pages of our naval and military annals, and by which the heroic sons of Britain have *covered themselves* with glory; but they are of that great, unostentatious, but important nature, for which she has doubtless by this time *been covered with glory* by her heavenly Master.

Thus then have I arrived at the great point which I have had in contemplation from the beginning of the work; the point at which I should find it necessary to take my station, and to review the character of her late Majesty. It is a solemn duty which I owe to the illustrious Lady, in order that the Nation may be enabled justly to value her memory; it is a duty I owe to the world, that all may know what a Queen *can* be; it is a duty I owe to posterity, that future Queens may see, *in the bright example*, what they *ought* to be, if they would become blessings to society.

The many circumstances which have been already detailed in this Memoir, will have furnished the attentive reader with materials for forming something like an estimate of the Queen's character; but I propose now to concentrate the inferences to be fairly drawn from these materials, and to add such others as could not have been stated in narrative, though indispensable to the purpose.

First, then, *as a Queen*, her late Majesty was dignified, yet condescending; gracious and encou-

raging, without being familiar. Her judgment was known to be as correct as her manners; and her principles and conversation were so pure, though cheerful, that no one ever dared to utter an unguarded expression in her hearing. The consequence was inevitably such as I have stated before: restraint became habit to all who frequented the Court; and therefore, however lively or brilliant the sallies of conversation might be, they were always made with the most delicate correctness.

It is scarcely possible to conceive a situation of more fatigue, or of greater difficulty, than that of the Queen, going for five hours round a circle of many hundreds of the most accomplished persons in this country, saying something kind, judicious, or instructive, to every one. This was not the custom of the Court before Her Majesty's coming to England; and the bright example, of so interesting a duty so well performed, leaves a most difficult task for her successor, whoever she may be.

As a Wife, her name has not been touched by the malignant breath of the most inveterate enemies of Royalty. She was

> ——————" chaste as the icicle
> that hangs on Dian's temple."

Every wish of her heart, every thought of her mind, was devoted unceasingly, in some way or other, directly or indirectly, to promote the King's comfort or his happiness; and she felt no labour too great in the fulfilment of this important duty. Her Majesty did not, on these occasions, depute to others the performance of many little services, which, perhaps, might have been executed by her domestics: she loved the duty, and she knew well that those who wish to be faithfully served must serve themselves. As an illustration and proof of this, I refer to one of the Queen's letters, of which a fac-simile is given, which shews a minuteness of attention King's safety and comfort, which goes even

what might be expected from some of the best women in this land of conjugal virtue and affection. The King had an extreme dislike to the introduction of new faces, in any department of his household; and the Queen, therefore, in preparing for the Royal journey to Weymouth, directs that no alteration should be made with regard to the servants appointed to attend, without her being previously informed of it. But after all, the King's unceasing affection for his Royal Partner, during an intercourse of fifty years, is the most conclusive testimony of Her Majesty's exemplary character as a Wife.

As a Mother, the Queen's virtues were not less eminent. She superintended the education of her Children, she frequently assisted in it; and, what is much more, she gave them a bright example. Her attention to their comforts and necessities was anxious and unceasing: but as facts are better than assertions, I give an engraved copy of one of the Queen's notes, ordering a low easy carriage for the Princess Amelia to ride in, after she became too weak to walk. There is one expression in this letter which may be misunderstood, or may be perverted by the malignant, and therefore I wish to shew its meaning and intention. Her Majesty desires that a pony may be provided to draw the little chaise of the Princess, and thinks it might be had *second-hand*. Now the object in view, was to have a tractable quiet horse, not one with royal graces and paces, broken in for the purpose; but one that, having been *used before*, could be depended on for steadiness. The whole of this letter exhibits that degree of minute, zealous, and delicate attention, which the Queen shewed to all her Children, upon all occasions. But, with all this kindness, it was one great object of her solicitude, to encourage, to inculcate, and to require, a reverential obedience to parental authority, particularly to that of the King. "Ho-

nour thy father and thy mother," was a principle deeply fixed in the Queen's mind; and it is evident, that when the Royal Children had learnt to honour one Parent, they would not fail to reverence the other, who had taught them so important a duty.

As a Friend, Her Majesty was stedfast and unchangeable, extending her regard even to the children of those whom she had deemed worthy of her friendship; and she had the valuable habit, not always attributed to Royal minds, of never forgetting a service which had been rendered to herself, or to any of her Family. Of this I will offer one instance only, out of the many that might be adduced. The accomplishments and amiable manners of the late Countess of Elgin, procured for her the Queen's notice and kind regard; and it was from these circumstances that her Ladyship was appointed Governess to the Princess Charlotte of Wales; in which difficult situation she acquitted herself with such zeal, steadiness, and ability, as to claim the lasting gratitude of her Royal Patroness. Lady Charlotte Bruce, the Countess's daughter, was therefore taken under the kind protection of the Queen, and was received at Windsor, by the Princesses, almost as a sister. Upon Lady Charlotte's marriage, a packet was sent from Windsor to Lady Elgin, accompanied by a letter from the Queen, full of the kindest congratulations on the expected establishment of her daughter, and requesting that the packet might be presented to Lady Charlotte Durham, *as she would then be*, on her return from the marriage ceremony. The packet contained letters of the kindest felicitations from the Princesses to the Bride, and expressions of hope that they might still occasionally have her company, to partake of the homely fare of the Castle. With these was a letter to Lady [redacted] from the Queen, full of the kindest demonstrations of friendly solicitude. It stated the [redacted] the engagements into which the young

about to enter; it urged the importance of the duties of a wife in sustaining the respectability of her family, in cementing new connections, in making her husband a man of consideration with every one; and it concludes to this effect: "Having addressed you as a friend and a parent, I will conclude in the Royal style——therefore receive the blessing of your Queen, CHARLOTTE."

I cannot conceive any thing more delightfully amiable than this; and I regret that a sort of timid delicacy in the individual who possesses it, has disappointed my hope of giving this interesting letter to the Public. As the Queen, unhappily for the Country, is now no more, private feeling, I conceive, ought to give way to the important necessity of illustrating so great a character.

As a Mistress, the Queen was kindness itself, and was most devotedly beloved and served by all who were so happy as to have appointments in her establishment. The swoln and tearful eyes of the Ladies accustomed to be about her person, even for weeks after the Royal interment, shewed the manner in which they estimated their loss: it was not only the loss of a kind Mistress they had to deplore, it was the deprivation of a Friend and a Parent. But the Queen's kind considerations were not limited to the small circle of her more eminent servitors; she condescended to think of the interests of even her footmen. Of this, also, I give an instance in Her Majesty's own writing. Howorth, as a footman, had served the Queen attentively and faithfully for some years, on which account Her Majesty determined to advance him to the situation of Page, attendant on the Princesses; and she did not leave this act of gracious favour for another to do, who might perhaps have neglected or forgotten it, she did it herself, as the letter, faithfully copied, will shew. Another instance of the Queen's attention to the welfare of her menial servants occurred about the same time, which I feel it my duty to state.

Roden, also a footman, who had served for many years, was in London, and broke a blood-vessel in his chest. Immediately, as this came to Her Majesty's knowledge, she wrote to the Clerk of the Stables, desiring that Roden might never be put behind a carriage again, lest the motion should prove too much for him; and advising that he should retire with the usual pension. The footman, thankful for such kind consideration of his case, requested it might be humbly stated to Her Majesty for him, that the pension was not quite thirty pounds a year, and the salary forty-five; that if he might be allowed to retire and retain his salary, he should ever consider it as a new and very gracious mark of Royal favour. The Queen's answer was sent without delay. "Let Roden state what he thinks will make him comfortable, whether it be his salary *or more*, and desire the Master of the Horse (Lord Harcourt) to pay it to him regularly."

But with all these circumstances blazing before them, and hundreds more of the same kind, which might be brought forwards, there are some perversely-minded individuals, who delight to call the Queen parsimonious, and one who was making great reserves in the property bestowed upon her by the Nation.

Of the Queen's charitable dispositions and disbursements, I have already given so many proofs, that it would seem almost unnecessary to say more upon the subject; but the subject is inexhaustible. Her Majesty's appointment was fifty-eight thousand pounds a year; out of which she had to pay the whole expense of her establishments at Buckingham-House, at Frogmore, and at Windsor: she had to pay for the education of her Daughters; she had to pay the pensions to the wet-nurses of her Children, amounting, finally, to three thousand two hundred pounds a year; she had to support carriages and [illegible] all the Maids of Honour, as long as they [illegible] unmarried, so that the stable department

Majesty consisted of twenty carriages, and from forty to fifty horses. But the charge of want of generosity in the Queen must fly before what I am about to state. A Gentleman holding an eminent situation near the Royal Family, has now in his possession a list of the benevolent or charitable donations, which the Queen had constantly paid for a great length of time, and the average is more than THREE AND TWENTY THOUSAND POUNDS A YEAR! If this list could be published, it would silence the tongue of calumny for ever; but it involves the names of persons, now living in apparently good circumstances, who would be injured by the publication, and who might be inclined to deny the assistance they had received, because it was so delicately supplied, that they did not know the source from which it came. Besides this, I have the authority of one who was constantly about the Queen's person, to say that the sums which Her Majesty gave in occasional charity were very large. She never passed the numerous supplicants who threw themselves in her way, on her little excursions in the neighbourhood of Windsor, without giving to them liberally; and to this I may add a circumstance which has been laid before the public already, but of which I have ascertained the truth:

When the Windsor Bank stopped payment, the alarm and distress were very great, because they had issued their one-pound notes to a large amount, which had become the chief circulation of the country, and were principally in the hands of the poor. When this was made known to the Queen, she sent one of her confidential agents, (who was not known to act under such authority, for Her Majesty's charities were always performed in secret,) round the neighbourhood, to exchange for *Bank of England notes*, all those of the Windsor Bank, which were in the hands of *persons likely to be distressed* by the probable loss. This act of timely

benevolence cost the Queen between five and six hundred pounds.

Thus, then, I feel myself justified in stating, that more than half Her Majesty's income was dispensed in charities. Is there any individual in this country that can say the same? I am convinced that there is none; and till such an instance can be found and brought forwards, QUEEN CHARLOTTE OF GREAT BRITAIN, must stand *pre-eminently* conspicuous, as the most *charitable* person that has ever adorned this land of charity and benevolence!

The whole property of every kind, which the Queen left at her death, as sworn to by the Executors of her Will, was less than a hundred and forty thousand pounds; a smaller sum than was left by the King's Aunt. But there are some persons who detest Royalty, and like to hang upon its sides like hounds upon the noble stag, till they have brought him to the ground, expiring. These libellers, as a last effort against the Queen, even though dead, for death could not put a check upon their malignity, trumpeted forth, that Her Majesty had left trunks and drawers full of fine shawls and silks, that were moth-eaten by long hoarding. Now the fact is, simply, the Queen bought these things at different times, in order to encourage the manufactures of the country, and she laid them by immediately, because the purpose had been answered. Others purchased, because the Queen had done so; but if Her Majesty had given those things away, instead of locking them up, she would have defeated her intentions, and would have prevented so many others from purchases.

There is only one point more on which the Queen's character has been arraigned by her enemies, and which I have to refute: it is the declining to receive and notice the Wife of one of her Sons, when brought to England. This is a matter of extreme delicacy, and should never have been

brought forwards as a public discussion; but to show as concisely, and as delicately, as I can, the propriety of the Queen's conduct on this occasion, I beg to refer the reader to the principle, repeatedly stated in this work, on which the Queen invariably acted in admitting to her presence. A Noble Lord, of very high station, and who felt it his duty to intercede, went to Her Majesty to urge the propriety of receiving the newly-arrived foreigner. The Queen heard all that he could say on the subject, and then asked him, if he had not been convinced by her reasons, when he made a similar application, some years before, in favour of the Princess of Wales? His Lordship confessed that he had been *then* convinced: "Then," said the Queen, "I need not repeat those reasons now. My principles are the same as they were, and I cannot deviate from them."

This Noble Lord is so remarkable for his correctness and deliberation in every thing, that his acquiescence may be quoted as a very high authority in the Queen's favour.

Thus, then, the lately deceased, the justly lamented, Queen of Great Britain, stands clear and unimpeached, as one of the most exemplary characters that ever adorned this country or any other; and my important task is accomplished by having made this truth manifest.

All that remains for me now in this work, is to state the solemnity with which her Funeral Obsequies were performed; the deep sorrow of her Relatives on the irreparable deprivation; and the grief of those who now feel the want of her sustaining kindness and benevolence.

Immediately on the decease of Her Majesty, the Royal Standard, which had been constantly flying on the tower of the Chapel, was lowered half down the staff; and in the course of the evening a detachment from the first regiment of Guards, under the

command of Colonel Barrow, arrived from London at the temporary Barracks on Kew Green.

The first communication which was made (officially) to the Metropolis, of the melancholy tidings, that Mothers had lost a bright example, that Wives had lost a guide on which they might rely with confidence, that Queens had lost an overpowering competitor for modest celebrity, was received at Carlton House, directed to Lord Sidmouth, on paper edged with a broad black border. This it was found necessary to communicate to the numerous and anxious inquirers, by announcement, thus:

"*Carlton House, Nov.* 17.—Her Majesty expired at one o'clock this morning."

About four in the afternoon, the lamented event was communicated to the City Authorities by Lord Sidmouth's letter.

"To the Lord Mayor.

"*Whitehall, Nov.* 17, 1818.

"My Lord,

"It is my painful duty to inform your Lordship of the decease of Her Majesty the Queen. This melancholy event took place at Kew Palace, at one o'clock this day.

"I have the honour to be

"Your Lordship's most obedient,—Sidmouth."

The circumstance was thus announced in a Supplement to the London Gazette.

"This day, at one o'clock, the Queen departed this life, to the inexpressible grief of all the Royal Family, after a tedious illness, which Her Majesty bore with the most pious fortitude and resignation. The many great and exemplary virtues, which so eminently distinguished Her Majesty throughout a long life, were the objects of esteem and admiration amongst all classes of His Majesty's subjects, and render the death of this most excellent Princess, an irreparable loss to the nation."

On the following day, the Prince Regent going to Kew, called for his Royal Brother at [illegible]

House, but finding His Royal Highness's carriage waiting at the door for the same journey, he took the Duke with him for the purpose of seeing his disconsolate Sisters, and in order to give directions for the Funeral; Mr. Mash, of the Lord Chamberlain's Office, and the Royal Undertakers, having been in attendance the whole of the morning, to receive the Prince Regent's directions.

This important business was arranged, liable to the superintendence of the different officers of Royalty; and the Princes then shut themselves up with their Royal Sisters, weeping over the loss so affectionate and numerous a Family had sustained; the Prince most earnestly endeavouring to persuade the Princesses to come and reside with him at Carlton House. This they declined, as affectionate daughters naturally would; for, having establishments at Windsor, and their only remaining Parent being there, they decided in a way which every one will commend.

The Prince, therefore, returned to town without his Royal Sisters, and a Council was ordered for the following day, to decide on the Ceremony of the Funeral; by which it was established that it should not take place, according to the precedent of the Funeral of the preceding Queen, Caroline, but that it should be left to be arranged by the Lord Chamberlain.

It was determined at length that the Funeral of Her late Majesty, though grand, like that of the Princess Charlotte of Wales, should not be a State Funeral. Had it been decided otherwise, the Ceremony would have taken place in Westminster Abbey, the Corpse would have laid in state for two days, at least, in the Painted Chamber, generally occupied for the conferences of the Parliament, and would have been finally deposited in the Royal Vault under Henry the Seventh's Chapel.

The Dowager Countess of Cardigan, as Lady of

the Bedchamber, sat up with the Royal Body the first night, and the same duty was performed successively by other Ladies who had been appointed to Her Majesty. The Royal Undertakers and Mr. Mash for the Lord Chamberlain were in the mean time making due preparations: the leaden coffin, and the outer case, were conveyed in a hearse to Kew, as soon as they were ready, the latter not having been shewn to any part of the public; a custom which had prevailed before upon all similar occasions, but was now peremptorily forbidden by an unqualified order from the Regent. The outside Coffin was rather plain than magnificent, and was thus inscribed:

"Depositum Serenissimæ Principissæ CHARLOTTÆ, Dei Gratia, Reginæ Consortis Augustissimi et Potentissimi Monarchæ Georgii Tertii, Dei gratia, Britanniarum Regis, Fidei Defensoris, Regis Hanoveræ, se Brunsvici et Lunenbergi Ducis, Obiit XVII die Novembris, Anno Domini MDCCCXVIII, Ætatis suæ LXXV."

IN ENGLISH.

"Here are the Remains of the most Serene Princess CHARLOTTE, by the Grace of God, Queen Consort of the most august and powerful George the Third, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, King of Hanover, and Duke of Brunswick and Lunenburg, Died on the 17th of November, in the year of our Lord, 1818, and of her age the 75th."

At half past eight o'clock in the evening of the Saturday following Her Majesty's death, the leaden coffin was removed from the Dining Parlour of the Palace to the chamber where the Royal body lay, and, after it had been placed upon tressels, all the men who had been employed retired. Preparations were then made to perform the last act of personal attention to the remains of the Queen, by placing them in the coffin, which was conducted with the most solemn order and decorum, under the immediate direction and superintendence of Mr. Mash and Mr. R. A.

Brande, in the presence of Mrs. and Miss Beckendorf, and the other ladies who had been the constant attendants upon Her Majesty, during her long and painful illness, both at Buckingham House and Kew Palace: the body was wrapped in a white-satin sheet. At nine o'clock, every thing else being completed, Mr. Brande, agreeably to the duties of his office, proceeded to fill up the coffin with spices; which being done, Mr. Holroyd, the plumber, and his assistants, were admitted, and the cover was soldered on the coffin, as officially attested by the persons present.

On the Monday morning, Messrs. France and Banting, with a great number of assistants, proceeded to fit up with black draperies, and other funeral emblems, the Great Hall at Kew Palace, and the avenues leading to it. Over the recess at the upper end of the apartment, a state canopy was erected, having festoons of black draperies and frequent tassels all round the cornices, and being surmounted at the top by a large plume of black feathers. All the other apartments of the Palace were fitted up for the numerous persons whose duty would require them to be in attendance previously to the Funeral Procession.

On the day before this melancholy event took place, the body having been placed under the canopy, and every arrangement having been made that could at all contribute to the awfulness and solemnity of the scene, persons were admitted to see the coffin; but as this admission was rigorously confined to persons having tickets, and as the tickets had been issued with extreme parsimony, many hundreds, who wished most anxiously to pay this last respect to their departed Queen, were cruelly deprived of the opportunity.

The following is a correct account of the Funeral Ceremony and Procession for the interment of our long beloved, and now justly lamented Queen, as

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

HERALD'S COLLEGE, *December* 8, 1818.

The Remains of Her late Most Excellent Majesty Queen Charlotte, of blessed memory, having lain in State, privately, at Kew Palace, during the preceding day and night, were removed from thence to Windsor, on Wednesday last, the 2d instant, at ten o'clock in the morning, in a hearse, adorned with ten escutcheons, and drawn by eight of Her late Majesty's horses, preceded by the Knight Marshal's Men, on horseback, with black staves, and followed by seven carriages of Her late Majesty, each drawn by six horses, conveying the Lord Chamberlain, the Master of the Horse, the Treasurer and Secretary to Her late Majesty, the Ladies of the Bedchamber, and others of Her late Majesty's Establishment: the whole escorted by a Field-Officer's Guard, with a standard, consisting of one hundred and twenty men, of the 19th Lancers. At Longford (where the Procession arrived at three o'clock, and halted during the space of an hour,) the first escort was relieved by a similar guard of the Third Regiment of Dragoon Guards, which escorted the Royal Body to Datchet-Bridge, when it fell into the rear, and formed the rear guard. A Field-Officer's detachment, of one hundred men, with a standard, from the Household Brigade, met the Procession at Datchet Bridge, and formed its escort to the door of the Royal Chapel of St. George, at Windsor.

The Procession halted at Frogmore, to receive his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, with his guard of honour, and proceeded from thence, at half past seven o'clock, to St. George's Chapel, where it arrived at a quarter past eight, in the following order:

Party of Life Guards.

Carriages of the younger branches of the Royal Family, each drawn by six horses, namely:

His Royal Highness the Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester.

Their Royal Highnesses the Princesses.
His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex.
Two Carriages of His Royal Highness the Duke of York.
Three Carriages of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, drawn by six horses each.
Servants and Grooms of the Royal Family.
Servants and Grooms of the Prince Regent.
Servants and Grooms of His Majesty.
Servants and Grooms of Her late Majesty.
(All in deep mourning, with caps of honour, and each bearing a flambeau.)
Trumpets and Kettle-Drums mounted, and the Drums and Fifes of the Foot Guards.
Knight-Marshal's Men, on horseback, with black staves.

Twenty Yeomen of the Guard, in Mourning, with partizans reversed.
Escort of Life Guards.

The HEARSE,
drawn by eight of Her late Majesty's black horses, driven by Her late Majesty's Body Coachman.

Twenty Yeomen of the Guard, in Mourning, with partizans reversed.
Escort of Life Guards.

Guard of Honour.

Carriage of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, drawn by six of His Majesty's black horses, conveying *His Royal Highness the Prince Regent*, Chief Mourner, accompanied by *His Royal Highness the Duke of York*.

Carriage of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, drawn by six horses, conveying the Lord of the Bedchamber, Groom of the Bedchamber, and Equerry in Waiting, of the Prince Regent.

Guard of Honour.

Carriage of Her late Majesty, conveying the Earl of Morton, K. T. Lord Chamberlain, the Earl Harcourt, Master of the Horse, Major-General Taylor, Treasurer, and Sir Henry Campbell, Secretary and Comptroller to Her late Majesty.

Carriage of Her late Majesty, conveying Ladies of the Bedchamber to Her late Majesty.

Carriage of Her late Majesty, conveying the Maids of Honour.

Carriage of Her late Majesty, conveying the Women of the Bedchamber to Her late Majesty.

Carriage of Her late Majesty, conveying the Equerries of Her late Majesty.

Carriage of Her late Majesty, conveying the Pages of Honour and Gentlemen Ushers to Her late Majesty.

Carriage of Her late Majesty, conveying Madame and Miss Beekendorf.

A Guard of Lancers closed the Procession.

Foot Guards and Cavalry, stationary, every sixth man bearing a flambeau, lined the Procession, from Frogmore to St. George's Chapel.

Foot Guards and Cavalry, stationary, every sixth man bearing a flambeau, lined the Procession from Frogmore to St. George's Chapel.

Upon arrival at the south porch of St. George's Chapel, the Grooms and Servants, the Trumpets and Drums, and the Knight-Marshal's Men, filed off without the Door. The Royal Body was removed from the Hearse, and carried by ten Yeomen of the Guard, and followed by Their Royal Highnesses, the Chief Mourner, and the Duke of York, into the space prepared to receive them: at the entrance, the Dean and Canons, attended by the Choir, received the Royal Body; and the Procession, (which had been previously formed under the direction of Sir George Naylor, Knt. York Herald, executing this part of the office on behalf of Garter,) being flanked by a party of the Grenadier Regiment of Foot Guards, every fourth man bearing a flambeau, moved down the South Aisle, and up the Nave, into the Choir, in the following order:

Poor Knights of Windsor.

Pages of His Royal Highness the Prince Leopold,
Mr. Sims, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Ammershuber.

Page of Her Royal Highness Princess Sophia of Gloucester,
Mr. Edwards.

Pages of His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester,
Mr. Richmond, Mr. Hart, Mr. Lakin.

Pages of Their Royal Highnesses the Princess Sophia, the Duchess of Gloucester, and the Princess Augusta,
Mr. Gallop, Mr. Venables, Mr. Harding, Mr. Moore.

Pages of His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex,
Mr. Relbourne, Mr. Blackman.

Pages of His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland,
Mr. Strickland, Mr. Ball, Mr. Salisbury.

Pages of His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence,
Mr. Rimington, Mr. Redwood.

Pages of His Royal Highness the Duke of York,
Mr. Gibbon, Mr. Kett, Mr. Worley, Mr. Frantz,
Mr. Lafeul, Mr. Platt, Mr. Kendal, Mr. Goodes,
Mr. Silvester, Mr. Lumley.

Pages of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, viz.
William Hobman, Wm. Joseph Goodwin, Joseph Goodwin,
William Parker, sen. Samuel Wharton, Thos
William Parker, jun. John Claridge, Es
Pages of the Presence,
Thomas Messenger, John Dobell, George Wells

Pages of the Bedchamber,
Jenkins Stradling, Joseph Norden, Robert Jenkins,
Samuel Bowtell, John Wood, Esqrs.

Pages of the Back Stairs,
William Holmes, Charles Downes, Benjamin Lucas,
George Troupe, C. F. Du Pasquier, Esqrs.

Pages of His Majesty,
William Cooper, Richard Smart, Ernest Grisewell,
Joseph Bott, Anthony Healey, John Bott,
John Clarke, William Baker, Esqrs.

Pages of Her late Majesty,
George Neach, Daniel Robinson, Joseph Cooper,
——— Harding, Robert Parry, Christopher Papendick,
Robert Watkins, William Duncan, H. F. Grobecker, Esqrs.

Gentlemen Ushers, Quarterly Waiters on His Majesty,

Thomas Bennett Mash, Esq.	William Lewis, Esq.
John S. Dobyns, Esq.	Hon. Heneage Legge,
Robert Browne, Esq.	Edward Ash, Esq.
T. Ramsden, Esq.	J. Clarke, Esq.

Pages of Honour to His Majesty,

A. R. Wellesley, Esq.	Frederick Paget, Esq.
Hon. Wm. Thomas Graves,	Fred. W. Cullen, Smith, Esq.

Apothecaries to the King,	Surgeon to the King,
Robert Battescombe, Esq.	Thomas Keate, Esq.
Richard Walker, Esq.	

Apothecaries to Her late Majesty.	Surgeons to Her late Majesty,
Alfred Jones, Esq.	John Griffiths, Esq.
Everard A. Brande, Esq.	Andrew Mathias, Esq.
	Robert Keate, Esq.

The Rev. the Rector of the Parish of Kew.	The Rev. the Rector of the Parish of Windsor.

Grooms of the Privy-Chamber to His Majesty,
W. C. Fowle, Esq. Frederick Chapman, Esq.
Robert Powell, Esq.

Serjeant-Surgeons to the King,
Sir David Dundas, Bart. Sir Everard Home, Bart.

Physicians to the Prince Regent,
Sir Matthew John Tierney, Bart. Sir Gilbert Blane, Bart.

Physician to His Majesty,
Sir Henry Halford, Bart.

Physicians to Her late Majesty,
W. G. Maton, M. D.
William Heberden, M. D. Sir Francis Milman, Bart.

Deputy Clerks of the Closet to the Prince Regent,
The Rev. Dr. J. Stanier Clarke, The Rev. Fred. Blomberg.

Household Chaplain to His Majesty's Windsor Establishment,
The Rev. Isaac Gossett.

Equerries of the Prince Leopold,
Colonel Addenbroke, Lieut. Col. Sir Robert Gardiner, K. C. B.

Equerries to the Duke of Gloucester,
Edmund Curry, Esq. Lieut. Col. Samuel Higgins.

Equerries to the Duke of Cambridge,
Colonel Keate, Major-General Sir James Lyon, K. C. B.

Equerries to the Duke of Sussex,
Henry Frederick Stephenson, Esq. Major Perkins Magra.

Equerries to the Duke of Cumberland,
Colonel Charles Wade Thornton, Lieut.-General Henry Wynyard,
General Vyse.

Equerries to the Duke of Kent,
Captain Conran, Lieut.-Col. Sir Henry W. Carr, K. C. B.
Major-Gen. Sir George Anson, K. C. B. Lieut.-Gen. Wetherall.

Equerry to the Duke of York,
Charles Cullen Smith, Esq.

Equerries to the Prince Regent,
Charles Quentin, Esq. Major-Gen. Sir Hussey Vivian, K. C. B.
Sir William Congreve, Bart.

Clerk-Marshal and First Equerry to the Prince Regent,
Lieut.-Gen. F. T. Hammond.

Quarter-Master General, Major-General Sir J. W. Gordon, Bart. K. C. B.

Adjutant-General, Lieut-General Sir H. Calvert, Bart. K. C. B.

Equerries to the King,
Lieut.-Gen. Sir William Wynyard, Lieut.-Gen. Sir Brent Spencer,
K. C. B. General Cartwright, General Gwyn.

Clerk-Marshal and First Equerry,
General Robert Manners.

Gentlemen Ushers to the Privy-Chamber to His Majesty,
John Hale, Esq. Sir Robert Chester, Knt.
T. Hatton, Esq. W. Master, Esq.

Officers of the Duchy of Cornwall, viz.
Solicitor General,
William Harrison, Esq.

Auditor, Sir William Knighton, Bart.

Receiver-General, The Rt. Hon. Wm. Lord Gordon.

Lord Warden of the Stannaries,
The Earl of Yarmouth.

Grooms of the Bedchamber to His Majesty.
Admiral Sir George Campbell, K. C. B. Lieut.-Colo
Harry King,

Lieut.-General Sir T. Hilgrove Turner, Lieut. General the Hon. Sir W. Lumley, K. C. B.
Gen. Sir Wm. Keppel, G. C. B. Gen. Sir I. F. Cradock, G. C. B.

Master of the Robes to His Majesty,
The Honourable Fulke Greville, Esq.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Vernon,
Pursuivant of Arms.

Portcullis,
G. F. Beltz, Esq.

Rouge Dragon,
C. G. Young, Esq.

Blue Mantle,
Francis Martin, Gent.

His Majesty's Solicitor-General,
Sir Robert Gifford, Knt.

His Majesty's Attorney-General,
Sir Samuel Shepherd, Knt.

Her late Majesty's Solicitor-General,
A. Hart, Esq.

Her late Majesty's Attorney-General,
Mr. Serjeant Vaughan.

Comptroller of His Majesty's Household,
The Right Hon. Lord George Beresford.

Treasurer of His Majesty's Household,
The Right Hon. Lord C. Bentinck.

Heralds of Arms,

Somerset,
J. Cathrow, Esq.

Richmond,
Joseph Hawker, Esq.

Privy Purse and Private Secretary to the Prince Regent,
Major-General the Right Honourable Sir Benjamin Bloomfield.

The Right Honourable the Lord Chief Baron,
Sir Richard Richards, Knt.

The Right Honourable the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas,
Sir Robert Dallas, Knt.

The Right Hon. the Vice-Chancellor of England,
Sir John Leach, Knt.

The Right Hon. the Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench,
Sir Charles Abbot, Knt.

Lords of the Prince Regent's Bedchamber, viz.
The Rt. Hon. Lord Vis. Petersham, Rt. Hon. Lord James Murray,
Right Hon. Lord C. Spencer.

Master of the Household to His Majesty, and Secretary to the Groom of the Stole, at Windsor,
B.C.Stephenson, Esq.

Groom of the Stole to His Majesty's Windsor Establishment,
The Earl of Winchelsea, K. G.

Vice-Chamberlain to His Majesty's Windsor Establishment,
The Right Hon. Lord G. Thynne.

The Right Rev. the Lord Bp. of Exeter, Clerk of the Closet to the King.

The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of London.

The Right Rev. the Lord Bp. of Salisbury, Chancellor to the Order of the Garter.

Heralds of Arms,

Lancaster, E. Lodge, Esq.

Chester, G. M. Leake, Esq.

Minister of State of Hanover, Count Munster.

The Deputy Earl Marshal, The Right Hon. Lord H. T. M. Howard.

The Deputy Lord Great Chamberlain, The Right Hon. Lord Gwyder.

His Majesty's Ministers, viz.

The Right Hon. Charles Bathurst,
The Right Hon. George Canning,
Lord Viscount Melville,
The Earl of Westmoreland, K. G.
Lord Privy Seal.

The Right Hon. W. W. Pole,
The Right Hon. N. Vansittart,
The Earl Bathurst, K. G.
The Earl of Harrowby,
Lord President of the Council.

His Grace the Archbishop of York.

His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury.

F. Townshend, Esq. Windsor Herald, acting for Norroy, King of Arms.

Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard, The Earl of Macclesfield.

Captain of the Band of Gentlemen Pensioners, The Earl of Courtown.

The Sub-Dean, Choristers, and Chapel Boys, of the Chapels Royal.

The Choir of Windsor.

Prebendaries of Windsor.

Dean of Windsor.

Supporter, Thomas Gore, Esq. Second Gent. Usher, Daily Waiter to Her late Majesty.

THE CROWN of Her late Majesty, borne on a black velvet cushion, by Ralph Bigland, Esq. Norroy acting for Clarenceaux, King of Arms.

Supporter, G. N. Vincent, Esq. First Gent. Usher, Daily Waiter to Her late Majesty.

The Lord Steward of His Majesty's Household, The Marquis of Cholmondley.

First Gent. Usher, Daily Waiter to His Majesty, H.Y. Wortham, Esq.

Garter Principal King of Arms, Sir Isaac Heard, Knt. bearing his Sceptre.

Gent. Usher of the Black Rod, Sir Tho. Tyrwhitt, Knt. bearing his Rod [illegible]

Secretary to the Lord Chamberlain, John Calvert, Esq.

The Lord Chamberlain of His Majesty's Household, The Marquis of Hertford, K. G.

Vis

Supporters of the Canopy, Gentlemen of the Privy Chamber.

Supporter of the Pall, His Grace the Duke of Northumberland.

His Grace the Duke of Dorset.

His Grace the Duke of St. Alban's.

THE ROYAL BODY, Covered with a fine Holland Sheet, and a Black Velvet Pall, adorned with Escutcheons, carried by ten Yeomen of the Guard, under a Canopy of Black Velvet.

Supporter of the Pall, His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K. G.

His Grace the Duke of Montrose, K. G.

His Grace the Duke of Beaufort, K. G.

Supporters of the Canopy, Gentlemen of the Privy Chamber.

THE CHIEF MOURNER, THE PRINCE REGENT, in a long black cloak, with the Star of the Order of the Garter embroidered thereon, and wearing the Collars of the Garter, the Bath, and of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order, and the Insignia of the Order of the Golden Fleece.

Supporter, the Marquis of Buckingham.

Supporter, the Marquis of Winchester.

Train Bearers,

The Marquis of Bath, The Marquis of Salisbury,
The Marquis of Headford, K. St. P. The Marquis Cornwallis.
The Marquis Camden.

Assistants to the Chief Mourner,

Lord Viscount Bulkely, The Earl of Delawarr,
The Right Hon. Lord Boston, Lord Viscount Lake,
The Right Hon. Lord Amherst, The Right Hon. Lord Rivers,
The Right Hon. Lord Arden, The Right Hon. Lord Grenville,
The Right Hon. Lord Graves, The Rt. Hon. Lord St. Helen's,
The Right Hon. Lord Langford, The Rt. Hon. Ld. Henley, G.C.B.
The Rt. Hon. Ld. Beresford, G.C.B. The Rt. Hon. Lord Hill, G. C. B.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, in a long black cloak, with the star of the Order of the Garter embroidered thereon, and wearing the Collar of the Garter, his train borne by Major-General Sir George Townshend Walker, G. C. B. Groom of the Bedchamber, and the Honourable Washington Shirley, Equerry to His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness the Duke of York, in a long black cloak, with the Star of the Order of the Garter embroidered thereon, and wearing the Collars of the Garter, Bath, and of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order, his train borne by Lieut.-Col. D. Barclay, and Lieut.-General Cooke, Aides-de-Camp to his Royal Highness.

Master of the Horse to Her late Majesty,
The Earl of Harcourt.

The Lord Chamberlain to Her late Majesty,
The Earl of Moreton.

Secretary and Comptroller to Her late Majesty,
Lieut.-Gen. Sir H. T. Campbell, K. C. B.

Private Secretary and Treasurer to Her late Majesty,
Maj.-Gen. Herbert Taylor.

Ladies of the Bedchamber to Her late Majesty,
The Countess of Cardigan, The Countess of Macclesfield,
The Countess Dowager of Ilchester.

Women of the Bedchamber to Her late Majesty,
The Right Hon. Lady Radstock, The Hon. Mrs. Egerton,
Mrs. Gwyn, The Hon. Mrs. Courtney Boyle,
The Hon. Mrs. Leigh, The Hon. Mrs. Boscowen.

Maids of Honour,
The Hon. Miss Brudenell, The Hon. Miss Vernon,
The Hon. Miss Wrottesley, The Hon. Miss Coleman,
The Hon. Miss Courtney.

Ladies of the Bedchamber to the Princesses,
The Right Hon. Lady J. Thynne, The Rt. Hon. Lady A. C. Smith,
The Right Hon. Lady M. Poulett, The Rt. Hon. Lady M. Taylor,

Gentlemen Ushers of the Privy Chamber to Her late Majesty,
Charles Brooke, Esq. Thomas Faughier, Esq.
Sir T. B. Paskell, Bart.

Equerries to Her late Majesty,
The Honourable Colonel Upton, The Hon. Sir E. Stopford, K.C.B.
The Honourable Major Murray.

Keepers of the Robes to Her late Majesty,
Miss Beckendorf, Madame Beckendorf.

Women attendant of Her late Majesty,
Mrs. Thielché, Miss Bice,
Miss Maxwell, Mrs. Papendock,
Miss Tunstall, Miss Vyse.

Third Gentleman Usher, Daily Waiter to Her late Majesty,
Hugh Bishop, Esq.

Pages of Honour to Her late Majesty,
R. P. Douglas, Esq. William Harcourt, Esq.

Gentlemen Ushers, Quarter Waiters to Her late Majesty,
Henry Willoughby Rooke, Esq. Sir John Gibbons, Bart.
J. L. Duckenfield, Esq.

Ten Gentlemen Pensioners, with their axes reversed.

Forty Yeomen of the Guard, with their partizans [illegible]

Upon entering the Choir, the Rod placed on a platform, and the Crown laid on the Coffin.

The Chief Mourner sat on a chair at the head of the Corpse, the Supporters standing on each side.

The Princes of the Blood Royal proceeded to their respective Stalls.

The Lord Chamberlain of His Majesty took his place at the feet of the Corpse, and the Supporters of the Pall their places near the Royal Body.

During the Service, the Knights of the Garter present occupied their respective Stalls: the Judges, Ministers of State, Nobility, and Great Officers of the Household, were placed in the vacant intermediate Stalls: the Ladies Attendants in the seat below the Stalls, on the north side, nearest the Altar: the Officers of the Duchy of Cornwall, the Grooms of the Bedchamber, Law Officers, &c. in the seat below the Stalls, on the south side, nearest the Altar: the Physicians, Equerries, &c. in the front seats, on either side: the Gentlemen Ushers, Pages, &c. were arranged on each side, below the Altar.

The part of the Service before the Interment, and the Anthem, being performed, the Royal Body was deposited in the Vault; and the Office of Burial being concluded, after a short pause, Sir Isaac Heard, Knight, Garter, Principal King of Arms, proclaimed the Styles of Her late Majesty, as follows:

"THUS it hath pleased Almighty God to take out of this transitory life, unto his Divine Mercy, the late Most High, Most Mighty, and Most Excellent Princess CHARLOTTE, by the Grace of God, QUEEN CONSORT of the Most High, Most Mighty, and Most Excellent Monarch, *George* the Third, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, King of Hanover, and Duke of Brunswick and Lunenburgh; whom God bless and preserve with long life, health, and honour, and all worldly happiness."

After which, His Royal Highness the Chief Mourner, Their Royal Highnesses the Princes of of the Blood Royal, the Great Officers, Nobility, and others who had composed the Procession, re-

tired; having witnessed that every part of this most mournful and afflicting ceremony had been conducted with great regularity, decorum, and solemnity.

Such is the official account of this Procession and Ceremony: but there are other statements and observations, which will be acceptable to every reader who feels the value of that incomparable Person who is now lost for ever to the world, except by the influence of her bright example; and *that* will not fail to continue its beneficial operations till time shall be no more.

The Funeral-day was properly observed in and all round the Metropolis as a day of solemn mourning. Protestants, Dissenters, Catholics, and Jews, all threw open their respective places of religious worship; and everywhere the devotion was fervent and sincere. The slowly-tolling bells of the different Churches were heard throughout the day; the pulpits and desks were hung with sable draperies, and every thing which took place was in perfect unison with the solemnity of the melancholy occasion. The crowds that appeared in the streets, either proceeding to Windsor, or to their respective Churches and Chapels in Town, were immense beyond all former precedent; and there appeared a manifestation of loyalty, in almost every one, that was highly gratifying to observe: but it was a still further gratification to know that all this was spontaneous; for the positive commands of legal authority may force an appearance of mourning on occasions of Royal distress, but unless the heart go with it, there will ever be evident signs of reluctant acquiescence. The life-blood of generous manly sentiment still circulates through British hearts, and will, I trust, long continue to warm them: while that shall be the case, all will regret the loss of virtues [illegible] never been surpassed, and seldom equ[illegible] will look at such a constellation of h[illegible]

placed on the Throne of their Country, as the Indian looks at the sun, acknowledging its genial warmth, and considering it as the means of promoting the good of all.

The honorary guard, selected from the brigade of Guards, which had been stationed on Kew Green while the remains of Her Majesty were lying in state, turned out at seven o'clock in the morning that was to witness the Funeral Procession. Their Officers appeared with crape scarfs and sashes, with crape round their caps, and with black sword-knots. At eight o'clock, a detachment from the 16th Lancers made its appearance, slowly moving along the Windsor-road, and advancing towards Kew, where they were stationed on the Green. At half-past eight o'clock, the hearse, destined to convey the Royal Corpse to Windsor, arrived at the Palace, accompanied by fifty Undertaker's assistants, on horseback, with black silk scarfs and hatbands, and escorted by a body of Lancers. At this time the road leading to the Palace was greatly crowded. The road which passes through the middle of Kew Green was lined with carriages on each side, while an innumerable assemblage of people filled the spaces behind: the rising ground before the Star and Garter, at Kew-bridge, was occupied by several rows of carriages, comprising almost every species of vehicle that has been invented for personal travelling during the last century. These were loaded, both inside and outside, with anxious spectators, while the attending multitudes were spread on all sides further than the eye could reach. But this throng of spectators, desirous to shew a last mark of their reverence for such a Queen, was not confined to the neighbourhood of Kew; the whole road from London to Windsor, and the various avenues leading into Windsor from the surrounding country, were filled with carriages, equestrians, and with foot-travellers, the whole of the day. The roads

from Kew to Windsor were lined, in many places, with detachments of various military corps, whose gay attire, and embroidered draperies, took away much from the solemnity of the mournful occasion. Such an array would have suited well for the funeral of such a Queen as our celebrated Elizabeth; but it could have nothing in sentiment or appearance to connect it with the mild and gentle character, the unassuming virtues, of the departed Charlotte.

When these overwhelming crowds reached Windsor, they had a severe disappointment to encounter, which must be regretted by all persons. Complaints had been made that on the last similar occasion, money had been taken for admitting persons to view the ceremony; and it was now ordered that none should be admitted but by tickets. These were issued so sparingly, and were examined at the door with such rigorous attention to the identity of the persons presenting them, that the Chapel exhibited not, on this memorable occasion, the imposing spectacle of a multitude weeping over the interment of departed worth and Royalty. Whoever gave directions for such an arrangement, did an unpardonable violence to the feelings of a sympathizing People, and must have been as injudicious in policy as deficient in sentiment.

The Prince Regent appeared on the occasion, worn down in person by his attention to a revered Mother, and by grief for her loss; and his agonized feelings during the awful ceremony scarcely left him the powers of consciousness: those who were sufficiently near to witness his emotions, were fearful of his being overpowered, for many of them had seen the excess of his sensibility at the funeral of the Princess Amelia: but He that tempers the wind to the shorn lamb, supported him through the conflict of human feelings; for, notwithstanding all that the impious may dare to assert, there is a privilege surrounding those whom the Lord hath anointed,

descends to their children, as the precious oil upon the beard of Aaron, which flowed down to the hem of his garment.

The sorrows of the Princesses I will not attempt to state, because words are inadequate to the task, and because it would be an invasion of that amiable and judicious privacy in which they have shut themselves up to lament their loss, a loss that is great to them, but much greater to the Nation. While the Queen lived, though latterly the afflictions of the King had withdrawn her from society, there was a kind of standard for female character in this Country; and it was the more important, because so many British families have during the last three years been indulging themselves in visiting the Capital of France, where vice of every kind reigns triumphant, and from whence they return with relaxed principles and corrupted habits, to spread French contagion amongst their virtuous compatriots.

Who shall succeed *now* to this important office, of directing feminine manners and conduct? *The dead* may be appealed to for counsel; but it is a voice that comes from the grave, and the thoughtless will refuse to hear.—Who shall collect together, yearly and frequently, the noble and lovely maidens of the British Isles, teach them the dignity of modest matrons, and shew them in her Daughters what virgins ought to be? Alas! there is none to do this—and England must sorrow—England must and will sorrow, more and more every day, because every day the loss which she has sustained will be more evident.

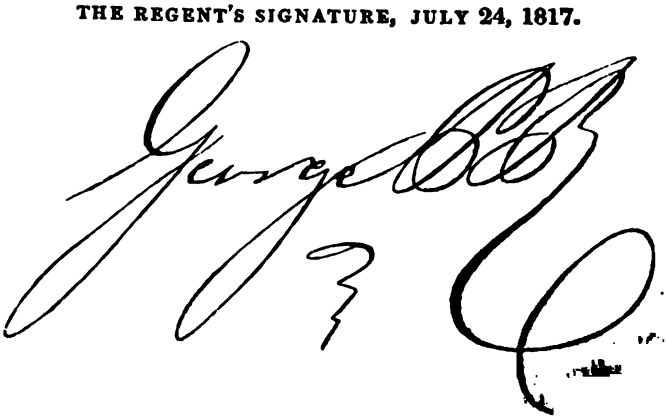
Here then my undertaking ends, and I trust I have fully redeemed the pledge, given at first, to shew the Queen *as eminent for her virtues and accomplishments, as illustrious by her birth and high station.* I have been led to this undertaking by a

sense of duty, (for my pursuits, though public, do not involve writings of this class,) and I feel that I had greater opportunities of doing justice to the subject than any other person that would have been willing to undertake it. If, in justifying the Queen, I have, *even once*, used a stronger expression than might have been advisable, I hope it will be attributed to my zeal on the subject next my heart, and not to any inferior feeling.

THE END.

FAC-SIMILE OF HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNATURE, FEB. 12, 1806.

THE REGENT'S SIGNATURE, JULY 24, 1817.



ENGLAND.

Adelaid, of Holstein, second wife.

III. died g, before ather.

cess, of in. Ingelburga, Abbess of Ribnitz.

Anne, born in 1447, died 1464. Elizabeth, Abbess of Ribnitz, born 1449, died 1496.

Albert VII. the Fair, Duke of Mecklenburg Gustrow, died 1547. Anne, of Brandenburg.

er, Bishop eburg, 37, 92. Elizabeth, of Sweden, second wife. Sophia, died young. John X. died young. Charles I. Bishop of Ratzeburg, and Duke of Gustrow, born 1540, died 1610.

ied of

ENGLAND.

Juliana Sibilla, born February 1636, died Oct. 1701, in Ruhney Abbey.	Christina, born August, 1639, d. June, 1693, Abbess of Gandersheim.	Maria Elizabeth, born Mar. 1646, died April, 1713, Abbess of Gandersheim.	Anna Sophia, born Nov. 1647, died —; married Julius Sigismund, Duke of Wurtenburg Oels.

na, 94, d; stian ock- rin.	Sophia Christiana, born Oct. 1706, died in 1708.	Charles Lewis Frederick I. Duke of Mecklenburg Mirow, born February, 1708, died June, 1752.	Albertina Elizabeth, daughter of Ernest Frederick, Duke of Saxe Hilburghausen, died 1761.

Queen of Great Britain, married to his present II. September 8, 1761,	Gottlob, born and died October, 1745.	George Augustus, born August 16, 1748.

APPENDIX

TO THE MEMOIR OF

HER MAJESTY QUEEN CHARLOTTE,

OF GREAT BRITAIN.

I HAVE thought it best to throw into an Appendix to this Work, many things that would otherwise have been incorporated in its pages. Some readers require details, on particular points, that would be insufferable to others; some require elucidations and discussions on doubtful points, that would greatly embarrass a narrative; some, again, wish for documentary statements of events which are generally admitted, and which, by their nature, should go at once to the reader's heart. By the arrangement that has been thus adopted, all these classes may be satisfied, and the work remain, as I trust it will be found, an interesting, instructive, and impressive description of the *King*, *the Queen*, the *Royal Family*, and the *Court of Great Britain*, during more than half a century.

(a) page 12. There are some who have affected to treat this letter as an English fabrication to give repute to the new Queen, though they have nothing to offer in support of their opinion, but that the style is too good, and the arrangement too systematic, for so young a person. Now it is very well known that the Princess of Mechlenburg Strelitz was highly educated; and she had the painful opportunity of witnessing the distresses she described. Surely these advantages would be sufficient to enable any

one to write impressively. In regard to the style, she knew that she was writing to a man of high literary acquirements, and she would therefore, most probably, form her manner of pleading upon those celebrated classical models with which her reading must have made her acquainted, and which she must, of course, suppose to be familiar to the King of Prussia. A German copy of this letter was sent over to England by that Monarch, in the hope of its producing the effect which it *did* ultimately produce; and I have the honour of being known to one, who has seen this German copy.

(b) p. 13. It has been said that a certain Colonel, (Greame) was sent to examine the Continental Courts for a Queen for England. I confess I doubt the assertion entirely; but, if such an agent was sent out for that purpose, it was by the direction of the Princess Dowager of Wales, and unknown to her Son. When the King had made his election, a very high Dignitary of the Church, who had been greatly instrumental in his education, was sent to Mechlenburg, to observe and give his opinion. The report was most satisfactory, and the result we know.

(c) p. 16. The whole tenor of the Queen's life may be brought forwards in support of this assertion; and the preceding pages of this Work have, no doubt, convinced the reader that it is well-founded. The Genealogical Tables which are now presented to the Public, go no further back into early times than known facts, or traditionary probabilities, will authorize. They are extracted, with some corrections, from Dr. Nugent's very learned and elaborate Work, "Vandalia," which the inquirers into pedigrees of high or royal Families, will find extremely gratifying.

(d) p. 19. Her Serene Highness manifested her extreme reliance on the honour of our King, in the most delicate manner, on this occasion, in d
to be married by proxy, to which office, I

court, the British Ambassador, had been appointed: the engagement entered into was no more than a simple contract, the form of which it would be useless to give. Her Highness, however, when Queen, and for many years after, even to the end of his life, preserved and manifested an affectionate regard for the Earl of Harcourt.

The Embarkation and Voyage to England, of the Princess Charlotte of Mechlenburg, being the Communication referred to in page 19.

On leaving Stade, where her Serene Highness had met with the most gratifying attentions, by illuminations in the houses, and by the chief Ladies of the place presenting her with copies of complimentary verses, on velvet cushions; she found a triumphal arch erected over her road to the water-side. In a boat, on board of which Her Highness was to cross a shallow branch of the Elbe, she found a table covered with various kinds of fruit, in great profusion; and on landing from this vessel in a part where there were not any houses, she found places of shelter erected for her attendants, and an ample pavilion for herself, where dinner had been prepared for three hundred persons, by cooks from His Majesty's establishment at Hanover, who had been ordered to attend for the purpose. The Princess, young as she was, and accustomed to an inland residence, shewed no fear of the watery element, but embarked for her destined voyage with great gaiety, as if anticipating the long course of happiness that awaited her in England. The magnificent yacht appointed to convey her, had formerly been called "The Caroline," but had recently received the new denomination of "The Charlotte," with great ceremony, by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. The convoy consisted of eight ships of war, under the command of Lord Anson. This little

fleet, with the Royal yacht constantly in the middle, was repeatedly interrupted in its passage by the most tempestuous weather, and was detained so long at sea, without any tidings being received, that the King and his Council began to be seriously alarmed. The Princess, in the mean time, bore the buffetings of the perilous ocean without any unpleasant effect on her health. She endeared herself to all her companions and attendants, by her amiable manners, and by her correct cheerfulness; she took great pains to practise herself in speaking English: and, having been informed that her destined Husband was particularly fond of music, she was indefatigable in practising on the harpsichord she found in her cabin, that she might "find favour in his sight." Her conversations, when serious, were marked by an extraordinary degree of knowledge and penetration; and her repartees, in lively and free intercourse with her associates, were of the most brilliant kind. In short, the circumstances of such a situation, gave to those who had the happiness to be of the party, an opportunity of knowing and judging this amiable and illustrious young Lady, which, from the difference of circumstances, few have had since. They all agreed in stating, that they had never met with so accomplished a person before.

It was intended that the destined Bride of our Sovereign should land at Greenwich; but the fleet having been several times within sight of our coast, and as often driven off by contrary winds, it was decided to land Her Serene Highness at the first practicable point, which proved to be Harwich. A circumstance occurred on the occasion, which I cannot forbear to mention, because I have it from undoubted authority, and because it serves to shew the high estimation in which this Princess held the prospect of an alliance with the Sovereign of England.

The Princess Dowager of Wales anxi

ed to see the King married to a female of her own family; and, by her direction, negociations for the purpose had been begun; but it appearing that the Lady in question was subject to a complaint that prevailed in the family, the matter was dropped. After the King's choice was announced, the disappointed Lady was heard to say, contemptuously, "And will they make that little ugly girl Queen of England!" This observation was carried to Strelitz, and told to the envied Princess, who took no notice of it at the time, and seemed to have forgotten it entirely; but when she was handed ashore by Lord Harcourt, and had set her foot on British ground, she turned to him with a graceful smile, and asked, "What will the Princess of Saxe-Gotha say now?"

Her Serene Highness wore none but English dresses from the time of her leaving Strelitz; and on her way from Harwich to London shewed the most anxious desire to gratify the curiosity of her destined subjects. She sat forwards in the carriage, which she ordered to drive slowly through the towns and villages; and at Witham, where she supped, Lord Abercorn's leave being obtained, she directed the doors of the house and of the saloon to be thrown open, that the neighbouring people might have free access to see her.

The extreme kindness and affection with which the Princess was received at St. James's Palace, made her feel as if at home; and a few minutes after her introduction to the Family, she offered her snuff-box to the King, a signal of cordial amity then prevalent in all the other Courts of Europe. The King bowed respectfully on the hand that held it, professing that he never took snuff; on which the Princess immediately passed the box behind her to the Lady attendant, saying, "Never let me see it again." His Majesty felt the full force of the compliment; and, four days after, with the most elegant gallantry, presented the Queen with two snuff-boxes

splendidly ornamented with diamonds; the one having a miniature of himself on the top, and the other a miniature of the Queen. The gratified Lady kissed the first with great emotion, and presented the other to her Husband, who accepted it with the same token of devoted affection. These may appear to some to be trivial circumstances; but they come from the heart, and serve to illustrate character better than the most laboured essay.

The following original Letter on this interesting subject with not fail to gratify the reader:

On board of the Winchester in the Downs, Sept. 9, 1761.

DEAR FATHER,

I BEG leave to acquaint you with our arrival here from the Elbe, after convoying Her Majesty from that river to England. The Princess Charlotte Strelitz of Mechlenburg is a little turned of seventeen; she is of a middle stature, has something very sweet and majestic in her looks, and the finest eye that can be imagined. By those that are acquainted with her private character, the beauties of her mind and actions far excel those of her person, and make her the most complete Princess of the age. She talks very good French, but has not yet learned the English tongue. She entered into Stade (which place she embarked at) under a triumphant arch, erected for that purpose; and was received with all the loyalty, grandeur, and magnificence, the place would admit of: the Yachts dressed in silk colours; and on their coming on board all the Men of War fired a Royal salute; attended in the Barge by the Duchess of Hamilton and Ancaster, and Captain Dennis steered her, dressed in full uniform. On her going on board, she shed tears, and said, "Good God! I have more honour conferred on me than what I deserve." She was not the least sea-sick the whole passage, (which was a very long one for so short a distance,) in which we had two very hard gales of wind, which had no manner of effect on her; and she made herself very merry at my Lord Harcourt's being sea-sick. She could not be prevailed on to be married by proxy. Please to give my duty to Mother, my love to my Sisters, and compliments to all Friends, and remain,

Dear Father,
Your obedient and dutiful Son,
J. JONES.

P. S. I have sent you the form and position we sailed in; and not on any account to suffer any strange vessel to come in amongst us.

N. B. I am now 2nd Lieutenant on board the Winchester.

HAZARD.

LYNX. FARRAR.

WINCHESTER. ROYAL CHARLOTTE. NOTTINGHAM.

LURCHER. YACHTS. CRUIZER.

MINERVA.

(e) p. 23. Those who delight in every opportunity of abusing, and trying to degrade, what is *Royal*, have laboured to insinuate, and to make it be believed, that the Queen, on all occasions, preferred Germans to the natives of England. That she should have felt a love for her Country, and a desire to serve its inhabitants, is a proof of an amiable mind, and good people would have a right to despise her if she had not felt it; but the Queen was too just to let this sentiment go further. It is true she brought over a small number of foreigners with her; but they held no office whatever in the Royal establishment, till vacancies had occurred by death or advancement, amongst those appointed in the first instance by the King. I am authorized to say, that Her Majesty never did express even the slightest wish to remove an English servant, in order to make room for one of her own country. The Queen's Household was thus settled by authority, and announced in the Gazette:

"*St. James's, Sept.* 5. The following is the List of the Establishment made by His Majesty for the Household of the future Queen:

"Chamberlain: Duke of Manchester.—Vice-Chamberlain: Lord Cantalupe.—Mistress of the Robes: Duchess of Ancaster.—Ladies of the Bechamber: Duchess of Hamilton, Countess of Effingham, Countess of Northumberland, Countess of Egremont, Viscountess Weymouth, Viscountess Bolingbroke.—Maids of Honour: Miss Bishop, Miss Wrottes-

ley, Miss Beauclerk, Miss Keck, Miss Meddows, Miss Tryon.—Bedchamber Women: Mrs. Dashwood, Mrs. Tracy, Mrs. Herbert, Mrs. Brudenel, Mrs. Boughton, Mrs. Bloodworth.—Sempstress and Laundress: Mrs. Chetwynd.—Gentlemen Ushers of the Privy Chamber: Sir James Calder, Mr. Stanhope, Mr. Boyle.—Gentlemen Ushers, Daily Waiters: Mr. Allen, Mr. Jenkinson, Mr. Molyneaux.—Gentlemen Ushers, Quarterly Waiters: Captain Robinson, Mr. Hubert, Mr. Causlaid.—Physicians: Dr. Letherland, Dr. Akenside.—Physician to the Household: Dr. Pringle.—Surgeon: Mr. Pennel Hawkins.—Surgeon to the Household: Mr. Thomas Gataker.—Apothecary: ------- Brande.—Apothecary to the Household: Mr. John Devaynes.—Pages of the Back Stairs: Mr. John Nicolaii, Mr. Richard Chapman, Mr. ------ White, Mr. Francis Weybrow.—Pages of the Presence: Mr. Valatin, Mr. Sutherland.—Necessary Woman to the Private Apartments: Mrs. Moore.—Necessary Woman to the Public Apartments: Mrs. Coggshead.—Treasurer: Andrew Stone, Esq.—Secretary: David Grœhm, Esq.—Comptroller: Hon. Sewallis Shirley.—Attorney-General: Mr. Hussey.—Solicitor-General: Mr. De Gray.—Master of the Horse: Earl Harcourt.—Equerries: Lieutenant-Colonel Montgomery, Captain Harcourt, Mr. John Schutz.—Pages of Honour: Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Pyne.—A Clerk of the Stables.—A Bottle-Man.—Five Coachmen.—Eight Footmen; and three for the Master of the Horse.—Two Grooms.—Four Chairmen.—Five Postillions.—Five Helpers.

(f) p. 23. *An Account of Buckingham-House; written at the time of its being appropriated to Her Majesty's use.*

The avenues to this Palace are along St. James's Park, through rows of good elms on one hand, and gay flourishing limes on the other; that for coaches, this for walking; with the Mall lying between them. This reaches to the iron palisade, that incompasses a square court, which has in the midst a great bason, with statues and water-works; and from its entrance rises all the way imperceptibly, till you mount to a terrace in front of a large hall, paved with white stones, mixed with dark-coloured [illegible] the walls of it covered with a set of pictures

the school of Raphael. Out of this, on the right hand, you go into a Parlour, 33 feet by 39, with a niche 15 feet broad, for a buffet, paved with white marble, and placed within an arch, with pilasters of divers colours; the upper part of which is as high as the ceiling, which is painted by Ricci.

From hence you pass through a suite of large rooms into a Bedchamber, 34 feet by 27; within it is a large closet that opens into a green-house.

On the left hand of the Hall are three stone arches, supported by Corinthian pillars, under one of which you go up eight-and-forty steps, ten feet broad, each step of one entire Portland-stone: these steps, by the help of two resting places, are so very easy, that there is no need of leaning on the iron baluster. The walls are painted with the story of Dido; whom, though the Poet was obliged to dispatch away mournfully, in order to make room for Lavinia, the better-natured Painter has brought no farther than to that fatal cave, where the lovers appear just entering, and languishing with desire.

The roof of this Staircase, which is 55 feet from the ground, is 40 feet by 36, filled with figures of gods and goddesses. In the midst is Juno, condescending to beg assistance from Venus, to bring about a marriage, which the fates intended should be the ruin of their own darling queen and people.

The bass-reliefs, and little squares above, are all episodical paintings of the same story; and the largeness of the space has admitted of a sure remedy against any decay of the colours from saltpetre in the wall, by allowing a case of oak laths, four inches within the wall, and so primed over like a picture.

From a wide landing-place on the stairhead, a great double door opens into an apartment of the same dimensions with that below, only three feet higher; notwithstanding which it would appear too low, if the higher saloon had not been divided from

it. The first room of this floor has within it a closet of original pictures; which yet are not so entertaining as the delightful prospect from the windows. Out of the second room a pair of great doors gives entrance into the saloon, which is 35 feet high, 36 broad, and 45 long. In the midst of its roof a round picture of Gentileschi, 18 feet in diameter, represents the Muses, playing in concert to Apollo, lying along on a cloud to hear them. The rest of the room is adorned with paintings relating to the Arts and Sciences; and underneath divers original pictures hang all in good lights, by the help of an upper row of windows, which drown the glaring.

Much of this seems destined for public exhibition; it will be better therefore to proceed to describe those parts of the Palace which are less frequently seen. As first, a covered passage from the kitchen, without doors, and another down the cellars, and all the offices within. Near this a large and lightsome back-stairs leads up to such an entry above, as secures the private bedchambers both from noise and cold. Here are necessary dressing-rooms, servants' rooms and closets, from which are the pleasantest views of all the house, with a little door for communication betwixt these private apartments and the great one.

These stairs, and those of the same kind at the other end of the house, carried up to the highest story, are fitted for the women and children, with the floors so contrived as to prevent all noise over head.

In the Court are two wings, built on stone arches, which join the house by corridors, supported on Ionic pillars. In one of these wings is a large kitchen, 30 feet high, with an open cupola on the top; near it a larder, brewhouse, and laundry, with rooms over them for servants: the upper sort of [illegible] are lodged in the other wing, which has wardrobes, and a store-room for fruit.

of all, a leaden cistern, holding 50 tons of water, driven up by an engine from the Thames, supplies all the waterworks in the Courts and Gardens, which lie quite round the house; through one of which a grass-walk conducts to the Stables, built round a court, with six Coach-houses, and forty stalls.

On the top of the whole house, which is covered with smooth milled lead, and defended by a parapet of balusters from apprehension as well as danger, the eye is entertained with a far distant prospect of hills and dales, and a near one of parks and gardens. To these gardens you go down from the house by seven steps, into a gravel walk that reaches across the whole garden, with a covered arbour at each end of it. Another of thirty feet broad leads from the front of the house, and lies between two groves of tall lime trees, planted in several equal ranks upon a carpet of grass; the outside of these groves are planted with tubs of bays and orange trees.

At the end of this broad walk you go up to a terrace 400 paces long, with a large semicircle in the middle, from whence is beheld the King's two parks, and a great part of Surry; then going down a few steps, you walk on the banks of a canal 600 yards long, and 17 broad, with two rows of limes on each side of it.

On one side of this terrace, a wall, covered with roses and jasmines, is made to admit the view of a meadow full of cattle just under it; (no disagreeable object in the midst of a great city,) and at each end a descent into parterres, with fountains and water-works.

From the biggest of these parterres, we pass into a little square garden, that has a fountain in the middle, and two green-houses on the sides, with a convenient bathing apartment in one of them; and near another part of it lies a flower-garden. Below

all this, a kitchen-garden, full of the best sorts of fruit, has several walks in it fit for the coldest weather.

At the end of that green-house which joins the best apartment, is a little closet for books, and under this closet and green-house is a little wilderness full of blackbirds and nightingales; the trees of which require frequent lopping, to prevent their hindering the view of that fine canal in the Park.

The Palace of Somerset House, on the south side of the Strand, had been appropriated for the Queen's residence previously to her arrival in England; but as it was an old and inconvenient building, and as improvements in that quarter were then projecting, His Majesty purchased Buckingham House for his Consort, settling it upon her for life, but to revert afterwards to the Crown. Many improvements have since been made in the great apartments, and in the offices, at Her Majesty's expense; and the grounds were laid out by the celebrated Mr. Brown, whose designs first introduced into this country the present natural style of picturesque English gardening. Buckingham House had long to boast of possessing the celebrated Cartoons of Raphael, the Prince of Painters.

Peter Pindar.

(g) p. 43. This wretched man has been a striking proof, that little advantage can be derived from the possession of even considerable talents, unless the exercise of them be directed by honourable principles. His name was Walcot, and he tried to make his way in the world by attempting different professions: he practised in medicine; he endeavoured to obtain patrons as an artist; and he was driven from both by his want of integrity and fairness in his conduct. At length, feeling a turn for poetry, he turned satirist; and to become at once conspi-

cuous, he directed all his abuse against the sacred, the unoffending person and character of the King. A gentleman of my acquaintance happened to sit next to Walcot, one day, in dining at the house of Mr. Incledon. In the course of conversation, after the meal, he said to his neighbour, "I should very much like to know your real opinion of the King?" on which Walcot assured him, without the least hesitation, that he thought His Majesty not only *an excellently good man, but also a clever man.* "Then how could you be such a scoundrel as to write so much against him?" was the prompt interrogatory. "Oh!" said the satirist, "that is a matter of mere business. I want to sell my writings, that I may live; and if I had written against a bad man, though all might have been very true, nobody would have purchased; but, in this country, every body feels interested in what relates to the King, because all believe him so good." But Peter Pindar certainly hoped, by the virulence of his attacks, to obtain some pension or appointment, as a bribe to keep him silent: he has fully revealed this in one of his poems.

Oft as His Sacred Majesty I see,
Ah! George, I sigh, thou hast good things with thee
Would make me sportive as a youthful cat.
It is not that my soul, so loyal,
Would wish to wed the Princess Royal,
Or be archbishop—no, I'm not for that—
Nor really have I got the grace
To wish for Laureat Whitehead's place.

But the King was not the kind of person to be so acted upon. He treated the coarse, but often ingenious, poems of the profligate man, with a kingly magnanimity; for he read them to his Family, and laughed at them as heartily as any of his subjects did. The wretched author, at last, lost his sight, and spending the latter part of his life in a state of continued intoxication, died not long since in great poverty, without any hope in that God

whom he had derided and blasphemed through the whole course of his life.

(h) p. 60. The Queen made very little use of the Palace at Richmond, though so beautifully situated, and at a very convenient distance between London and Windsor: it was finally granted as a residence for Lord Viscount Sidmouth, who, after having for many years most ably filled the arduous office of Speaker to the House of Commons, was appointed the King's Prime Minister.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE,

St. James's, Jan. 20, 1764.

(i) p. 89. This day the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London, in Common-council assembled, waited on His Majesty; and being introduced to His Majesty by Earl Gower, Lord Chamberlain, made their compliments in the following Address, which was spoken by James Eyre, Esq. the Recorder.

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

"Graciously to accept our sincere and dutiful congratulations on the Marriage of Your Majesty's eldest Sister, Her Royal Highness the Princess Augusta, with His Most Serene Highness the Hereditary Prince of Brunswick Lunenburgh. It was with the utmost joy and satisfaction, that we saw Your Majesty's wisdom yield to the proposals for an alliance with a Protestant Family so illustrious; and that a Lady, whose amiable character is not more exalted by the dignity of her high birth than her private virtues, was destined to be the happy partner of a Prince, whose eminent and distinguished services, during a successful and glorious war, will ever be remembered by every friend of true religion and public liberty.

"Your Majesty's faithful Citizens of London have seen, with gratitude, the Constitution of this country, settled and established by our great deliverer King William, maintained and improved by the illustrious House of Brunswick; and, therefore, they cannot sufficiently applaud Your Majesty's great wisdom and goodness in further strengthening it by this happy alliance.

"May this Marriage answer Your Majesty's warmest wishes and expectations; and may the Prince and Princess be blessed with an offspring truly worthy of so Royal and illustrious a descent!

"Permit us to assure Your Majesty of our firm attachment to Your Majesty's sacred Person and Government; and of our constant endeavours, within our sphere, to contribute to the happiness and prosperity of Your Majesty's reign."

To which Address His Majesty was pleased to return a most gracious answer.

They then went to Saville House, and waited on His Most Serene Highness the Hereditary Prince of Brunswick Lunenburgh, and made their compliments of congratulation.

(k) p. 112. This indisposition of His Majesty was cautiously alluded to by Dr. Smollet, in the first edition of his History of the present Reign; but owing to some advice given to the author, as to the delicacy of the subject, the allusion was omitted in all the republications.

(l) p. 161. An idea prevailed with some, that this ill-fated Princess was brought to England, and kept in close concealment till her death. A letter has been put into my hands from a sailor to his friends, that tends to favour such an opinion; for he states his firm belief that he assisted in navigating the ship which brought Her Majesty over, and that she kept herself closely veiled during the whole of the voyage. But to this I oppose my acquaintance with a distinguished Lady, who was one of the Maids of Honour to the Royal sufferer, and whom I have heard speak of being with her Mistress at Zell till she died. This Lady *then* returned to England, deeply sorrowing for her loss, and with so much privacy, that she most probably was the person whom the sailor mistook for the Queen of Denmark.

Of the Civil Government of the King's Court.

(m) p. 185. The civil government of the Court is committed to the Lord Steward of the House-

hold, who has authority over all the officers and servants of the King's House, except those of His Majesty's Chapter, Chamber, and Stables. He also attends the King at the meeting of Parliament; administers the oaths of allegiance and supremacy to all the Members of the House of Commons; and, at the end of the Parliament, adjusts the parliamentary expenses, &c. When in the King's presence, he carries a white staff; but, at other times, it is carried by a footman, bareheaded. This staff he breaks at the King's death, over the hearse made for his body, and by that means discharges all the officers.

The next officer is the Lord Chamberlain, who presides over all the officers belonging to the King's Chamber, and all above stairs, except the precinct of the King's Bedchamber, which is wholly under the Groom of the Stole. He has also the oversight of the Serjeant at Arms; of the chaplains, though he himself is a layman; of the physicians, surgeons, barbers, &c. and of the wardrobe, the beds, tents, revels, music, comedians, hunting messengers, trumpets, drummers, handicrafts, and artisans, retained in the King's service.

The Master of the Great Wardrobe is an officer of considerable dignity, and has a salary of £1600 a year. He has under him a deputy, who has £400 a year, and other officers. There are also several tradesmen and artificers, belonging to his office, who are sworn servants to the King, and are to furnish such things as are necessary for the coronations, marriages, and funerals, of the Royal Family; to provide robes for the Knights and Officers of the Garter; coats for the King's Heralds, and Pursuivants at Arms; with robes and liveries for many officers and servants at Court.

The next great officer is the Master of the Horse, who has the management of the King's stables and breed of horses; and presides over the equerries, pages, footmen, grooms, riders of the great horses,

farriers, smiths, coachmen, saddlers, and the other trades working for the King's stables.

The Master of the Horse has the peculiar privilege of making use of the King's coaches, horses, pages, and footmen, when he goes abroad; and upon any solemn cavalcade, he rides next behind the King, leading a horse of state.

Almost all the officers and servants are under these principal Officers of His Majesty's Household.

Of the Officers in the Compting-house, under the Lord Steward of the Household.

The Officers under the Lord Steward of the Household are those of the Compting-house, where that great officer has under him a Treasurer, and a Comptroller, a Cofferer, a Master of the Household, two Clerks of the Green Cloth, and two Clerks Comptrollers. In this office is the Board of Green Cloth, so called from the colour of the cloth which covers the table, at which is held a court, composed of the persons last mentioned; the three first of whom are generally of the King's Privy Council. It is a court of justice that continually sits in the King's House, and has the government of the King's Court Royal, with authority not only to correct all the servants guilty of any offence, but to maintain the peace within the verge, wherever the court resides.

It is remarkable, that by a law of the above Court, if any man presumes to strike another within the Palace where the King resides, and draws blood, his right hand is to be cut off, and the offender fined and imprisoned during life.

The Comptroller's office is to control the accounts of the Green Cloth.

The Clerks of the Kitchen appoint the diet of the King and Household every month; wait upon His Majesty, and also upon Foreign Princes, when

entertained by the King. The Chief Clerk keeps all the records, ledger-books, and debentures for salaries, &c. for provisions and necessaries issuing from the office of the pantry, buttery, and cellar; and has several other duties which oblige him to be in constant waiting. The second Clerk waits upon the diet; and, when ordered by the Board of Green Cloth, is to attend the King in his progress.

In the Presence Chamber, there are four Gentlemen Ushers, who are Daily Waiters in ordinary. The first of whom is Officer of the Black Rod, and during the sitting of Parliament daily attends the House of Lords, where he has a seat within the bar. He carries a black staff in his hand, and when the King commands the Commons to attend him in that House, he always sends the Black Rod. Also to his custody delinquents are committed by the Lords. He is likewise Usher of the Noble Order of the Garter.—The Gentlemen Ushers wait in the Presence Chamber, where they attend next the King's person.

Besides the great Wardrobe, there are several standing Wardrobes at Whitehall, Kensington, Windsor, Hampton Court, &c. under the direction of several Wardrobe-keepers, and other officers; as, a Deputy; a Clerk of the Robes and Wardrobes; a Yeoman; three Grooms; a Page; a Brusher; a Sempstress; a Body Laundress; and a Starcher. Besides which there are a Treasurer of the Chamber; a Comptroller of the Chamber; an Auditor of the Chamber; a Master of the Jewel House, and four other Officers.

Of the Military Government of the King's Court.

The Honourable Band of Gentlemen Pensioners, instituted by King Henry the Seventh, wait in the Presence Chamber, and attend the King with their pole-axes to and from Chapel; and also on all great solemnities, as coronations, public audiences of

Ambassadors, and at the funerals of Kings. They have also the honour of carrying up the King's dinner on Coronation days, and on St. George's day. Their arms are gilt pole-axes, and they have £100 a year each.

The Yeomen of the Guard attend in the Guard-chamber. They wear scarlet coats and breeches, guarded with gold lace and blue velvet, with silver badges gilt, upon their coats, both before and behind; they have black velvet caps, and their coats and caps are made in the fashion which prevailed in King Henry the Eighth's time. They are one hundred and sixty in number, and have £39. 11*s.* 3*d.* a year each, and diet allowed them. Thirty-six of these Yeomen wait upon the King in his Palaces by day, and eighteen watch in the night.

The King's Life Guard consists of 724 horsemen, Officers included, and are divided into two troops; to each of which there is now added a troop of Grenadiers, consisting of forty-four men, officers included; who are distinct from the two troops, and have Captains or Colonels of their own.

One division of the Grenadiers mounts with a division of the troop to which they belong.

Of the Precedency of the Officers of the King's Guards.

The Captains of the King's Horse Guards, always command as eldest colonels of horse; the Lieutenants, as eldest lieutenant-colonels of horse; the Cornets and Guidons, as eldest majors of horse; the Quarter-Masters, as youngest captains of horse; and the Brigadiers, as eldest lieutenants of horse. Amongst themselves, every Officer, when on detachments, takes place according to the date of his commission; but when the two troops march with their colours, the Officer of the elder troop commands him of equal rank with himself in the other, though his commission be of elder date.

(n) p. 226. The benefits procured to the Papists, which went to repeal, in part, the Acts of the tenth and eleventh of William III. for preventing the growth of Popery, were—an exemption to Bishops, Priests, and instructors of youth, from prosecution and imprisonment; a security for the rights of inheritance; and permission to purchase lands in fee simple: but the Catholics were not to enjoy these privileges but on condition of their taking the oath of allegiance; of renouncing the Stuart Family; an abjuration of the positions, that it is lawful to murder heretics, and that no faith should be kept with them; and of that principle which legalizes the deposing or murdering of Princes excommunicated by the Pope. They were also to deny the Pope's authority, temporal or civil, within this realm.

(o) p. 243. This justly esteemed and admired corps, consisting entirely of gentlemen and merchants of the City of London, afterwards chose Mr. Herries for their Colonel, a post in which he acquitted himself with perseverance and honour. The corps subsequently gave this gentleman a very high proof of their attachment to him; for, learning that he was in some embarrassment, occasioned by disappointments in his commercial concerns, they offered to advance him a hundred thousand pounds as a free loan. This the Colonel most nobly declined; on which occasion the corps invited him to a grand dinner, and, before sitting down, put into his hands a small box, like a snuff box, in which was a deed, settling upon him four hundred pounds a year for life.

Major Andrè.

(p) p. 268. The gallantry, the virtues, and the melancholy fate, of this accomplished young Officer, drew a sympathetic Poem from the elegant pen of Miss Seward, the Sappho, in versification, of [illegible] times. It begins with a high strain of in

Loud howls the storm, the vex'd Atlantic roars!
Thy Genius, Britain, wanders on its shores;
Hears shouts of triumph wafted from afar,
And groans of anguish 'midst the din of war.

To those who love the mournful Muse, and have hearts to feel, I recommend this Poem, as a means of gratification: and I would advise every one who has the opportunity, to read the letters, to various friends, which Major Andrè wrote in his confinement, while expecting an ignominious death.

(r) p. 343. The Common-Council of London, at a future period, impressed with a sense of the public services of Mr. Pitt, appointed a Committee to present the freedom of the city, and the thanks of the Court to him; for which purpose the Committee set off from Guildhall in the following order:

Two Marshalmen, with red and white Cockades.
Four Constables, with ditto.
Two Marshals, with Cockades and Sashes.
Mr. Alderman Townshend, Chairman.
Followed by the Committee,
Town Clerk, and the Clerk of the Chambers.

About three o'clock they arrived at Mr. Pitt's house, where they were very politely received; and Mr. Alderman Townshend presented the Resolutions, and at the same time addressed Mr. Pitt in a very elegant speech, to which Mr. Pitt returned an answer, couched in the warmest terms of respect.

The Cavalcade then returned, amidst the acclamations of applauding thousands, to Grocer's Hall, where Mr. Pitt received the freedom of the City, and afterwards was entertained with a most sumptuous dinner, served with the utmost elegance and profusion.

At Temple-bar the Procession was formed in the following order:

Two Marshalmen.
Constables, two and two.
Under City Marshal, on horseback.
Standard Banner.
Six City Pendants, two and two; their trains supported by Children, decorated with scarlet and white ribbons.

City State Banner.
The Colours, carried by the City Watermen, in scarlet jackets, silver badges, and scarlet and white caps.
Artillery Company's Music, two and two.
Committee in their Carriages; their servants with blue cockades.
A large blue Pendant, with the words "Pitt, and the Constitution."
Upper City Marshal, on horseback.
Chairman of Committee, with MR. CHANCELLOR PITT.
Mr. Pitt's Friends, among whom were the Marquis of Carmarthen, and the Lords Temple, Chatham, Sydney, with several others of the Nobility, closed the Procession.

As Mr. Pitt's carriage passed the Obelisk, at the end of Bridge-street, he was saluted by a discharge of the artillery, belonging to the Society of Lumber Troopers.

On their arrival at the Hall, after complimenting Mr. Pitt on the honour he had done them, in accepting the freedom of their Company, they took their places at an elegant entertainment, which it is said cost upwards of one thousand pounds.

The entertainment was conducted with the greatest regularity, and the evening spent with the utmost conviviality; during which many loyal and constitutional toasts were drank.

P. 368. Verses addressed to John Shore, Esq. (now Lord Teignmouth,) by Mr. Hastings, on board the Barrington, on his voyage from Bengal to England.

FOR ease the harass'd Seaman prays,
When equinoctial tempests raise
The Cape's surrounding wave;
When, hanging o'er the reef, he hears
The cracking mast, and sees or fears,
Beneath, his wat'ry grave.

For ease the slow Mahratta spoils,
And hardier Seik erratic toils,
While both their ease forego;
For ease, which neither gold can buy,
Nor robes, nor gems, (which oft belie
The cover'd heart,) bestow.

For neither gold nor gems combin'd
Can heal the soul, or suff'ring mind:
Lo! where their owner lies:

Perch'd on his couch Distemper breathes,
And Care, like smoke, in turbid wreaths,
Round the gay ceiling flies.

He who enjoys, nor covets more,
The lands his father held before,
Is of true bliss possess'd;
Let but his mind unfetter'd tread,
Far as the paths of knowledge lead,
And wise, as well as blest.

No fears his peace of mind annoy,
Lest printed lies his fame destroy,
Which labour'd years have won;
Nor pack'd Committees break his rest,
Nor avarice sends him forth in quest
Of climes beneath the sun.

Short is our span: then why engage
In schemes, for which Man's transient age
Was ne'er by Fate design'd?
Why slight the gifts of Nature's hand?
What wand'rer from his native land,
E'er left himself behind?

The restless thought, the wayward will,
And discontent attend him still,
Nor quit him while he lives:
At sea, Care follows in the wind;
At land, it mounts the pad behind,
Or with the post-boy drives.

He who would happy live to-day,
Must laugh the present ills away,
Nor think of woes to come:
For come they will, or soon or late,
Since mix'd at best is Man's estate
By Heav'n's eternal doom.

To ripen'd age Clive liv'd renown'd,
With lacks enrich'd, with honours crown'd,
His valour's well-earn'd meed.
Too long, alas! he liv'd to hate
His envied lot, and died too late,
From life's oppression freed.

An early death was Elliott's doom;
I saw his op'ning virtues bloom,
And manly sense unfold,

Too soon to fade. I bade the stone
Record his name, 'midst hordes unknown,
Unknowing what it told.

To thee, perhaps, the Fates may give,
I wish they may, in health to live,
Herds, flocks, and fruitful fields;
Thy vacant hours in mirth to shine;
With these, the Muse already thine,
Her present bounties yields.

For me, O Shore, I only claim,
To merit, not to seek for, Fame,
The good and just to please;
A state above the fear of want,
Domestic love, Heav'n's choicest grant,
Health, leisure, peace, and ease.

Mr. Pitt.

(s) p. 417. The City of London, as a body, was so convinced that Mr. Pitt would be dismissed from office as soon as the Regency Bill should have passed, and they were so fully sensible of the great benefits which his administration had conferred on the Country, especially in endeavouring to limit the powers of the proposed provisional Administration, that they addressed him with an intreaty, that, in the event of his retiring from the management of public affairs, they might be allowed to settle upon him, for life, a pension of three thousand pounds a year.

Lord Thurlow.

(t) p. 417. When this noble Lord exerted himself so strenuously, and with so much ability, to modify or protract the Regency Bill, in order to ascertain if, in the mean time, His Majesty might not recover; one of the Members of the House of Peers sarcastically remarked, that it was not wonderful the Chancellor should be so zealous for the King's service, as he had had so large a share of Royal favour. Lord Thurlow replied with ingenuousness and dignity, "I am not ashamed to own that I owe [illegible] and every thing I possess, to His Majes[illegible] ing kindness for me; and I say, from th[illegible]

my heart, When I forget my King, may God forget me." These words were afterwards worn as a motto upon many public occasions, when the object was to express the warmth of loyal affection. The character which I have given of Lord Thurlow is completely exemplified in this speech.

(u) p. 443. It has been inferred from the circumstance of this Princess marrying and leaving England, during the illness of her Royal Mother, that there was no reciprocal tenderness between them. Those, however, who are best informed, account for so extraordinary an occurrence in a different way. This Princess had, she believed, never recovered the favour she lost with her eldest Brother, by the active part she took in promoting his unfortunate marriage. In the prospect, therefore, of being left without her maternal Protector, she availed herself of a proposal which would remove her from any demonstrations of the Prince's continued displeasure.

Poor Knights of Windsor.

(v) p. 488. These Knights, as nearly the last remains of the Institutions of ancient Chivalry in this Country, and their establishment, as appendages to Royalty, goes farther back than even the building of Windsor Castle. It was, in all probability, a mode of providing for the declining years of valiant, but poor gentlemen, who had distinguished themselves in battle, where it was their duty to be near their Sovereign, if he were present. The chief of their employment now is, to take part in the public processions at Windsor, and to attend, twice a day, at the Chapel Royal, to pray for the King.

I have stated, in an early part of this Work, that the Queen never did attempt to use her influence upon any political subject, but in one instance, which I promised to relate, in a subsequent part of

the Memoir; and I take this opportunity to redeem the pledge. The circumstance is known to very few persons; but I have it from an authority which I cannot doubt. Mr. Pitt, then Prime Minister of the Crown, was desired by the King in Council, to bring before Parliament some propositions for again paying the debts of the Prince of Wales: when the Minister stated, that he had on the last similar occasion pledged himself to the House of Commons never to make another application of the kind; and he therefore declined to undertake the business; expressing himself with a degree of decision and firmness which displeased the Sovereign. Some further words passed, and, at last, the King, in a moment of irritation, dismissed Mr. Pitt from his service, who immediately retired. Mr. Fox was then applied to, through a confidential person, commanding him to attend the King immediately. We shall here see a proof of the respect which one great man cannot help feeling for another, however they may oppose, or differ from each other on particular subjects. Mr. Fox promised to attend His Majesty without delay; but, in order to save time, he begged to say, that if he was thus called upon, in order to bring forwards any measure which Mr. Pitt had declined, he should certainly refuse. The King was, probably, by this time, aware that he had been too hasty, and felt grieved for it: the Queen, therefore, sent for Mr. Pitt, and after some discussion of the subject, requested him to resume his late appointments. Mr. Pitt respectfully submitted; but required as a condition, that the King should reinstate him officially in the presence of those who had witnessed his dismission. The lofty mind of this great Minister is here fully exemplied, as well as his integrity.

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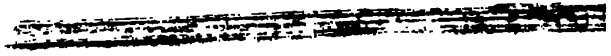

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